

TOMORROW

On the beat
A full report on the most
undertaken in Britain on
relations between the
police and the public



On the moors
How to get the bird and
take pot luck

On the shores
How the English live in
Majorca

On time
A watching brief on
clocks for Christmas

On the touchline
David Hands on
England's chances of
beating the All Blacks at
Twickenham

Kyprianou plea to Thatcher

President Kyprianou of Cyprus
is believed to have urged
Britain to take a harder line
against the newly-declared
Turkish Republic of North
Cyprus during talks with Mrs
Thatcher in London last night.

Severn Bridge restrictions

The Severn Bridge will be shut
to traffic in high winds, or when
a breakdown is likely to cause a
traffic jam, the Secretary for
Transport told MPs.

Geneva threat

A senior Soviet official has
hinted that Russia will walk out
of the Geneva talks on strategic
arms as well as those on
intermediate missiles.

£50,000 fine

The National Graphical Association
has been fined £50,000 for
contempt of court arising
from a long dispute over
recognition.

Britons freed

Rebels in southern Sudan
released two Britons kidnapped
on Tuesday, but still hold nine
other foreigners.



Woolworth errs

A judge called a decision by F.
W. Woolworth to prosecute a
widow aged 77 for shoplifting
"an affront to British justice".
The prosecution then withdrew
its case.

Jail campaign

A move is under way to allow a
British woman whose death
sentence was commuted to 20
years' imprisonment in South
Africa to serve the term in
Britain.

Henna claim

A new hair care company has
postponed the launch of its
shares on the stock market after
claims that henna hair colouring
powders can cause ear
infections.

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Letters: On investment, from
Mr R. Phillips; Cyprus, from
Mr P. Castle; rule of law, from
Professor Hedley Bull, and Mr
M. Jennings.

Leading articles: Chancellor's
speech, Cardinal Hume, Yugo-
slavia.

Features, pages 12-14

Doubts about the new Divorce
Bill; El Salvador; arms and the
age gap; Cruise, another great
political disaster; Spectrum: the
Kennedys; Friday Page: the art
of Nadine Gordimer.

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Mr Charles Murland, M
Bernard-Marcel Peyrouton,
Monica Stirling.

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Inflation expected to fall to 4½ per cent Lawson signals tax rises

● Economic prospects are good, the Chancellor claimed. Growth will be 3 per cent this year and next, inflation will fall to 4½ per cent by the end of 1984.
● Taxes may have to rise in the next Budget to stick to financial plans to limit borrowing.
● Public spending this year is higher than expected, though next year it will be limited to £126.4bn, as planned in the Budget.

● Thirty-seven thousand Civil Service jobs will go by 1988, bringing the total of civil servants down to 593,000.
● Half-a-million households will lose government help with their rents and there are big cutbacks in council housing.
● The Government has scaled down estimates of how much it will receive from selling off state industries. Gas and electricity prices are likely to rise.

By Kenneth Fleet, Julian Haviland and Frances Williams

The 1984 economic picture painted yesterday by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his autumn statement was stark through with one black streak. Mr Nigel Lawson told merely ruled out tax cuts in his spring Budget, he actually forecasted a rise in income tax.

That dismal prospect contrasted sharply with the general optimism of the Treasury's forecasts, which are rosy at the time of Sir Geoffrey Howe's last Budget in March. They depend less on buoyant consumer spending than the recovery so far, and much more on higher exports and investment.

Inflation is expected to fall again, from its present 5 per cent to 4½ per cent. Output, which is 3 per cent up this year, should rise at the same rate next year.

Employment is expected to rise as the world continues its climb out of the recession. Unemployment, the Chancellor said, "appears to be levelling off".

For MPs, the Chancellor's forecast in the printed statement and in his words to the Commons of possible net tax increases of the order of £500m in his next Budget was the one unexpected element.

One or two Conservatives were alarmed by it. The great majority dismissed it as an unnecessary extra signal by Mr Lawson of his determination to uphold the financial strategy.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour shadow Chancellor, noting that higher taxes were on the way, wanted a promise that they would fall on those most able to bear them.

Later, at a private meeting with Conservative backbenchers, Mr Lawson insisted that he was in earnest. His view is that higher taxes would be most undesirable, but he would not hesitate to raise them if the path

of national output from 3.25 per cent this year.

Having taken into account the forecast of Government spending and made the conventional assumptions that direct and indirect taxes will be charged in line with inflation, Mr Lawson was led inexorably to "the need or some net increase in taxes in next year's Budget".

However, he did emphasize that his arithmetic would be reviewed "in the light of more up-to-date information, before I come to make my Budget judgment".

Mr Lawson formally confirmed that in the current year government spending had gone beyond prescribed limits. In spite of the £500m of cuts he imposed last July, after the Conservative Party's election victory in June, the PSBR for 1983-84 is now put at £10bn, against the £8.2bn estimated by his predecessor last March.

That degree of error is greater than the City had anticipated, hence the subdued response Mr Lawson received from the Stock Exchange.

On the latest form, interest rates will do well to remain where they are. An early fall is ruled out by the Treasury's figures and there is already a feeling that they may have to go up.

As widely anticipated the Chancellor has succeeded in keeping planned public expenditure on page 5, col 6

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of public expenditure and public borrowing dictated such a course to achieve his main objective of lower interest rates.

Mr Lawson was harried from both sides of the Commons about the need to force up gas and electricity prices, but he stood his ground.

Mr Lawson had evidently decided that yesterday was not the occasion to make his personal mark on the management of the nation's finances. He remained solidly on the course set by his predecessor and charted in the Government's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The strategy requires that in 1984-85, the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement should be £8bn, falling to 2.5 per cent

Universities and teachers face cuts

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Cuts in teachers' jobs, school meals and spending by universities are envisaged in plans for education spending next year, which propose more money in cash but less in real terms.

The student grant is to go up by 4 per cent the minimum grant is being halved and parents earning more than £15,000 will need to contribute substantially more to their children's higher education.

Some may find themselves paying as much as £300 more a year towards the cost of keeping a son or daughter at university. Expenditure on education is being increased by £492m in 1984-85, from £12,266m this year to £12,758m, a cash increase of 4 per cent, but a decline in real terms of 0.5 per cent, assuming inflation is running at 4.5 per cent.

More money will be spent on teacher training, which is rising to £11m and an extra £1m will go on staffing at the Department of Education and Science. Compared with other areas of government spending, education's share of the cash is larger than any other.

37,000 Civil Service jobs to disappear

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Civil Service union leaders reacted sharply last night to the Cabinet's plan for a cut of 37,000 jobs over the next four years.

It is proposed to reduce the white-collar and industrial Civil Service to 593,000 by April 1988, an average of 1 per cent a year. By the end of Mr Thatcher's second term of office, roughly one in every five of Government jobs will have disappeared since she came to power in 1979.

The biggest cuts, nearly 7,000 jobs, will be in the Inland Revenue and Mr Tony Christopher, the general secretary of the taxman's union IRSS, said: "The spectre of redundancy might push our patience beyond the limit."

The union has called an emergency meeting of its executives next Wednesday to discuss the threat.

Half of the new cuts will come from the privatization of Royal Ordnance Factories, which will take 18,500 jobs out of the Civil Service.

According to details announced in a written reply by Mr Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, some departments will scarcely feel the impact of the cuts but others face a fierce round.

The Ministry of Defence which is scheduled to have 200,000 employees next April, will have only 170,000 four years later.

The Department of Health and Social Security will lose nearly 3,000 jobs; the Department of Employment will shed more than 2,500 jobs and the Manpower Services Commission with a £1 billion-a-year budget to create jobs will itself lose nearly 1,000 posts.

The arbitration service, Ascas, will also lose staff, but the Home Office will increase by more than 5,000.

Mr Rees said: "The aim has been to improve the efficiency of the Civil Service and to match staff numbers closely to the necessary functions of departments. The figures show a continuing steady reduction in the size of the Civil Service to about 593,000 by 1988, a further fall of 6 per cent."

500,000 families to lose housing benefit

By Nicholas Timmins

About 500,000 homes will lose housing benefit altogether and many hundreds of thousands more will be worse off from cuts announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services.

While he has managed to protect NHS spending and save off the most radical Treasury demands, £180m, or just under five per cent, will be cut from housing benefit, with another £50m saved from lower rent rebates.

Mr Fowler says the key changes will protect the poorest recipients, but SHAC, the London Housing Aid Centre, said last night it would leave about three million households worse off.

The changes will increase the "gap" by which housing benefit is reduced for each £1 of

Top sports agents under fire

There was severe criticism of the role of two leading sports agents, International Management Group and West and Nally, in the report of the Committee of Enquiry into Sports Sponsorship which was launched yesterday. (Pat Butcher writes).

The committee, chaired by the former Labour Minister for Sport, Mr Denis Howell, recommended that the Government refer Mark McCormack's IMG to the Office of Fair Trading.

The 112-page document notes: "It seems to us most undesirable that an organization

should be able to represent a governing body, sponsors, a significant number of players, negotiate television, cable and satellite rights, and sell merchandizing rights."

At a press launch for the report, Mr Howell quoted from a letter from IMG, delivered yesterday morning, in which the company regretted that the lack of any discussion with the committee on "conflict of interests". But Mr Howell pointed out that such a discussion with a senior vice-president of IMG was documented in the report.

The report, which took two years to prepare also criticizes West and Nally's links with the General Association of International Sports Federations, and the financial involvement of Adidas, the sports equipment company with FIFA, the governing body for football, and with the International Olympic Committee.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is also criticized for not providing a "realistic alternative service" to that of the BBC. A breakdown of 35 sponsored events on television in 1982 reveals that BBC covered 30, and ITV four, with one event shared.



Mr Lawson: Before Cabinet meeting.

French jets hit Shia stronghold

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

France last night effectively declared war on the Shia Muslim extremists of Lebanon and their militant Iranian allies when a squadron of Super Etendard fighters carried out two bombing and rocket attacks on an Iranian-occupied barracks just outside the ancient city of Baalbek.

For at least an hour and half, 14 jets - taking off at dusk from the aircraft-carrier, Clemenceau - raided the hilltop of Ras el-Ain, a classical necropolis high above the Roman temples of Baalbek, upon which Iranian Revolutionary Guards and members of the Islamic Amal movement have made their military headquarters in a captured Lebanese Army compound.

The air strikes, which came only a day after the Israeli raids on the neighbouring Shia Muslim militia camps, were clearly intended as retaliation for the bombing of the French multinational force company headquarters in Beirut last month, in which 58 paratroopers died.

Last night, multinational contingents in Beirut - including the British - were preparing for counter-attacks from the extremist groups, which planned the original suicide attacks. Shia Muslim organizations in Beirut had let it be known earlier in the day that the four-nation army in Beirut could expect to be attacked again after Israel's assault on Wednesday.

Claims by the multinational forces that they had no advance warning of the Israeli air raids, looked even more implausible after yesterday's French strikes - which must have taken days to plan - against targets only 11 miles from those hit by the Israelis.

In a disturbing statement yesterday, the Shia Muslim Amal movement in Beirut - from which Mr Hussein Mousavi's Islamic Amal broke last year - said the Americans had assigned the first raid to the Israelis. "We draw the attention of American officials to our convictions," Amal said, "that Israeli aggression would not



Continued on back page, col 3

Carrington backed to head Nato

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher all but confirmed yesterday that Lord Carrington is to be the next Secretary-General of Nato.

After Mr Peter Tapsell, Conservative MP for Lindsey East, has astonished the Commons by asking her at question time to reappoint Lord Carrington as Foreign Secretary, the Prime Minister said that there

was an "important international post in mind for him".

It was immediately made clear that the post she was referring to was the Nato one. Dr Joseph Luns, who has held the job since 1971, is expected soon to stand down. Given Lord Carrington's international stature and Mrs Thatcher's backing, it would be more than a surprise if he was not to get it.

Lord Carrington, who resigned as Foreign Secretary after the Argentine invasion of the Falklands, said last night: "It is nothing more than speculation, therefore I have no comment to make."

● WASHINGTON: The Reagan Administration said yesterday it would support Lord Carrington's candidacy when the vote is taken at next month's Nato ministerial meeting in Brussels (Nicholas Ashford writes).

A State Department spokesman said that the US "naturally delighted" at Mrs Thatcher's decision to nominate Lord Carrington.

US-trained unit accused of village massacre

From John Carlin, San Nicolas, El Salvador

"The soldiers crammed about 20 of us children and our mothers into the house and then sprayed us with machine-gun fire. My mother's body fell on top of me before the bullets could hit me. I played dead until the soldiers went away."

Aguilino Gravier, a boy of 10, said.

A guerrilla accompanying our group, automatic pistol in his belt, told me that the slaughter was "a symptom of the army's agony at its inability to defeat us on the battlefield".

US military advisers in El Salvador have recently expressed despair at the low morale and bad performance of the government troops, many of whom they have trained.

In an interview with *The Times* last week the commander of the elite Atlacatl battalion, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, vigorously denied claims that Salvadoran military men were involved in the country's much-publicized human rights abuses.

● As John Carlin was returning from San Nicolas to send this story, the open boat in which he and five colleagues were crossing Lake Suchitlan capsized in a storm and submerged (Our Foreign Staff writers).

Timothy Ross, a British-born ABC television producer, managed to reach land after swimming for an hour. Carlin and others - a Reuters correspondent, an American radio reporter, ABC's three-man television crew and the boatman were feared drowned.

In fact they spent four hours clinging to the upturned boat before it drifted ashore in the darkness. After spending most of the night sheltering among rocks at the lake's edge, they trudged for seven hours through thick jungle undergrowth before they came across a local villager who led them to safety.

They had travelled by boat because most of the roads were believed to be mined.

Boys to war, page 14

Poles say Andropov is planning Warsaw visit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

President Andropov, the Soviet leader, who is said to be ill, is planning a visit to Poland, official sources have disclosed. Although the timing is still uncertain, preparations for the visit are understood to be nearing completion.

The proposed visit was confirmed earlier this week at a news conference given by Mr Zbigniew Madziar, a deputy premier and an expert in economic planning. Preparations for the visit were he said, "very far advanced, especially with respect to the economic programme. But I cannot define the date of the visit."

If the trip occurs soon, it will scotch the repeated rumours both here and in the West that

Mr Andropov is seriously ill. His public absence has been officially explained away as a cold, though many diplomats believe that the Soviet leader suffers from a kidney complaint. Mr Andropov has not been seen in public since August.

● MOSCOW: A senior Central Committee official, Mr Vadim Zagladin, told press conference yesterday that Mr Andropov's own claim that he was suffering from a "cold infection" was still valid (Richard Owen writes).

Attention is now focused on the forthcoming Central Committee plenum, which has been delayed. Mr Zagladin confirmed that preparations were under way.

VICTORIA WINE

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Fight to bring reprieved woman back from South African prison

By Richard Evans

A campaign has been started to allow Mrs Maureen Smith, the British woman whose death sentence was commuted to 20 years' imprisonment in South Africa yesterday, to serve her jail term in Britain.

Mrs Smith, aged 40, who was born and brought up in east London before emigrating to South Africa in 1975, was sentenced to hang a year ago for the murder of her husband, Roger.

Yesterday an appeal court in Bloemfontein agreed by three votes to two to set aside the death penalty imposed on her and on Mr Jack Ramogale, the family chauffeur whom she paid to find a killer. He was sentenced instead to 15 years' imprisonment.

Mr Justice Wessels, the chief appeal judge in Bloemfontein, said that a combination of personality defects, the stress of an unhappy marriage and continuous and persistent coercion by her father and her

terms and specifically in regard to this case to see what moves can be made for this unfortunate woman, to serve her sentence in this country.

"That would at least make it possible for those close to her to visit her from time to time," Mr Duncan Downes, Mrs Smith's South African solicitor, described her 20-year sentence as too long and added: "My endeavours in regard to remissions and parole have not finished, they have only just begun."

During the trial the court had been told that Mr Smith had allegedly tried to blackmail Mrs Smith and her father, and that in response Mr Mullucks had once suggested sending "heavies" to South Africa to kill him.

Mr Mullucks, aged 72, of East Ham, yesterday described the 20-year sentence as "undeserving". He would not comment on the allegation that he had influenced or persuaded his daughter to kill Mr Smith.

It was almost certain that Mr Mullucks considered it essential that his son-in-law should be silenced, the judge added. Mrs Smith's part in the murder of her husband could probably be blamed mainly on her father, whose manipulation she could not resist, Mr Justice Wessels said.

But the court unanimously dismissed the appeal against the death of the hired killer, Mr David Moguni, who stabbed Mr Smith 14 times after being promised £6,000 by Mrs Smith.

The campaign to get Mrs Smith transferred to a British prison was disclosed last night by the London lawyer representing Mr Harry Mullucks, the father of Mr Smith.

Mr Malcolm Lee told *The Times*: "I can confirm that discussions have already taken place with members of both houses of Parliament in general



New start: James Nelson and his wife Georgina at St Andrew's University yesterday.

Man who murdered mother may get preacher's licence

James Nelson, who battered his mother to death with a police truncheon and a brick, is being considered for a preacher's licence by the Church of Scotland's Presbytery of St Andrew's.

That would allow him to use the title reverend and after a year's apprenticeship in a parish, he would be eligible for ordination and a parish of his own.

Mr Nelson, aged 39, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Mrs Elizabeth Nelson in 1970, was secretly accepted by the church as an approved candidate for the ministry four years ago.

If he is eventually ordained he would make history as the first convicted murderer to enter the clergy of any Christian denomination.

The church subjected Nelson to an extensive interview procedure after his release on parole in 1979 before he joined in the faculty of divinity at St Andrew's University.

During his four years at St Mary's College, St Andrew's, only a tiny number of church and university officials knew of his past.

In September, he completed his divinity degree and last month he married Miss Georgina Roden, aged 26, a first-class honours graduate in Hebrew and biblical studies in the same college.

Nelson told a press conference in Edinburgh yesterday that he had forgiven himself for the crime.

Earlier, his father, Mr Robert Nelson, aged 74, had said: "I cannot forgive and forget but I also cannot forget that he is my son."

Nelson told journalists that he was convinced God wanted him to go into the ministry.

The Rev Ronald Blakey, secretary of the ministry committee, said that Nelson's application had been approved unanimously at every stage.

"We believe the people of Scotland and the church of God to change men's lives," he said that if Nelson's application failed, the church would be "much poorer". "If sin is a reality then so is repentance."

Mrs Nelson said that her husband would be a "very compassionate minister". She said that he had revealed his past to her over a cup of coffee in his flat.

"I knew there was something that Jim wanted to tell me about for a long time and I rather suspected he had been in prison."

Nelson preached frequently in churches in Fife and Angus while a divinity student. His application to become a probationary minister will probably be considered in May.

Nelson killed his mother in the family home in Garrochhill, Lanarkshire, in what was referred to as "a cold rage", after an argument over his girlfriend.

Woolworth prosecution condemned

A judge yesterday described a decision by F. W. Woolworth to prosecute a widow of 77 for shoplifting as an "affront to British justice". The prosecution then withdrew its case.

Mr Recorder Goldstein, sitting at Wood Green Crown Court, north London, said: "If Woolworth want the sadistic pleasure of prosecuting this woman they will have to pay for it. I have every intention of making sure they pay their own costs and every penny of defence costs."

The judge said that it was a public disgrace that such a woman, with no previous convictions, had been prosecuted and that the long wait before coming to the crown court could have killed her.

Mrs Eva Ransley, of Wheatcroft, Flamstead End, Chesham, had been accused of stealing goods worth £30 from Woolworth in Edmonton on May 14. A verdict of not guilty was recorded against her.

The judge said to Mrs Ransley: "May I apologise to you on behalf of all of us who are associated with the court that you, at 77, a lady who has worked hard throughout her life, bringing up a family and then having to bury your husband, should be subjected to this humiliation."

He ordered that Woolworth should pay all the court costs and requested that the matter be reported to the company's managing director.

Woolworth said last night that its control procedures had not worked in this instance and they were already under review.

"There is an enormous problem for all retailers today and we have to take a tough line in order to protect our customers and our employees."

Two for one
British Caledonian Airways is offering two tickets for the price of one first-class ticket to Los Angeles and St Louis until December 31. The first-class St Louis round trip fare is £1,998, Los Angeles £2,226.

Dog owner spared £350 rescue bill

An unemployed Kent labourer will not have to pay the RSPCA the £350 cost of rescuing his dog from an underground drain. But he will be asked to contribute to an estimated £50 veterinary fees.

Mr Paul Brunt, aged 22, of Chatham, claimed the RSPCA had threatened not to return his year-old Border Lakeland terrier unless he paid some of the costs. The operation took three days and involved hiring a mechanical digger and a Dyno-Rod engineer. Mr Brunt said that he could not afford to pay.

The RSPCA said yesterday that it had never threatened withholding the terrier, but had made the "reasonable request" that Mr Brunt should pay the veterinary bill.

Former mistress loses court fight

Miss Valerie Burns, aged 40, who lived with her lover for 20 years and bore him two sons yesterday lost the final round of her legal fight for a share of their home. She was refused leave by the House of Lords to challenge a Court of Appeal decision last July that she was not entitled to any share of the house in Osidge Lane, Southgate, north London, in which Mr Patrick Burns, aged 57, remained after the relationship ended.

Armed raiders seize £41,000

A gang clubbed a security guard and robbed a cashier of £41,000 in wages yesterday in the centre of Stockport, Greater Manchester.

One of the six masked raiders waved a sawn-off shotgun and threatened a witness as the gang grabbed six plastic cases of wage packets being delivered to the Daw Bank bus depot for staff there.

£617,027 recluse

A recluse, known for his frugal habits by neighbours in Shady Grove, Salisbury, left £607,691 net. Mr Ian Maines, a retired accountant, who died intestate in July, aged 77, had shared a basement flat with his sister.

Mother freed

Dorothy Johnson, aged 33, of Silver Spring Close, Erit, south-east London, who strangled her daughter aged three, was put on probation for three years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday on condition that she receives medical treatment. She had admitted manslaughter.

Victim's suicide

Mrs Ethel Kann, aged 66, from Holloway, north London, who found it difficult to cope with upsets in life took a fatal overdose after being mugged last month. St Pancras coroner's court heard yesterday.

Crash kills three

Three men were killed when a car was crushed under a road tanker loaded with 600 gallons of fuel in Aldershot, Hampshire, yesterday. Firemen were unable to free the bodies for several hours because of fears of an explosion.

Britain set for biggest drinking spree

Britain is about to embark on its biggest drinking spree ever, according to the Food and Drink Industries Forecasting Group.

Consumption of spirits, which fell by more than 10 per cent from 35.4 million to 31.7 million gallons between 1978 and 1982, is expected to reach 37.4 million gallons by 1987.

Whisky will hold its market share at about 54 per cent, as will brandy, 7 per cent, and rum 9 per cent. But gin is predicted

Girls 'must learn science at school'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Science should be compulsory in schools for girls up to the age of 16 and positive discrimination should be practised to encourage girls to overcome centuries-old attitudes, Sir James Hamilton, former permanent secretary at the Department of Education and Science, said yesterday.

Sir James was summing up at a Women into Science and Engineering conference in London, attended by 200 delegates from education and industry. Speaker after speaker had said that girls were being stereotyped by teachers into thinking of girls-only subjects and careers.

Miss Valerie Evans, in charge of Her Majesty's Inspectors of schools in the West Midlands, described a highly-respected school in the Derbyshire Dales where she met a group of boys aged 11 using microcomputers in their spare time. "And what were the girls doing? They were sitting, talking, knitting - but nowhere near the micro."

Mr Ted Smith, of Preston Polytechnic, told the conference, organized by the Standing Conference on Schools' Science and Technology, that he was appalled by the sex-stereotyping of girls that went on in schools. One of his three daughters was

in class when a spaceship launching was televised and a teacher had burst in and said that any boy who wanted to watch it could do so.

Mr Barry Stynes, acting head of the department of civil engineering at Brighton Polytechnic, said that only 10 per cent of the first year of his degree course were women.

Mr John Spies, staff inspector for science in the Inner London Education Authority, said that local education authorities should be given strong advice that girls must do one science subject, at least in the fourth and fifth form. Where they were only doing one science, it had to be either physics or chemistry.

Miss Vivienne Marshall, head of education at the Engineering Employers Federation, said that craft, design and technology should also be compulsory.

Sir James said that he was worried about just making physics or chemistry compulsory.

"Most of the exciting developments are in biology. We should not be prejudiced against biology but against the sometimes very sloppy way in which it is taught and the very sloppy syllabuses that some children are given."

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CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

Privatization expected to raise a record £1,900m for Government

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to raise a record £1,900m from privatization in the next financial year. This is 50 per cent more than the Government has raised from this source in any previous year, but it is still expected to understate the final proceeds from the accelerating privatization programme.

The Treasury admitted last night that the £1,900m figure was a conservative one, which could emerge much higher once the planned stock market flotation of British Telecom has been completed.

The Government is planning to sell 51 per cent of the shares in British Telecom next October, and this alone will raise approximately £4,000m, according to City and government estimates. Yesterday's statement implies that the Government does not expect to raise all the proceeds in one financial year but will, as expected, spread them over a longer period by asking investors to put up money for shares in two or three tranches.

The only other privatization candidate that Mr Nigel Lawson identified by name yesterday was the planned flotation of Enterprise Oil, a new company that has been set up to hold the North Sea oil assets formerly owned by the state-owned British Gas Corporation.

That sale was originally

ASSET SALES

scheduled to take place in the present financial year, but has been put back until next summer on the grounds that possible Budget changes in the North Sea oil taxation regime could damage the company's reputation on the stock market. Enterprise Oil is expected to raise at least £400m.

The new targets appear to take no account of the possible privatization of British Airways, or any of the other nationalized industries which the Government has pledged to return to the private sector in the course of its second term of office.

Privatization and other asset sales raised about £1,700m for the Treasury between 1979 and the election this summer. In this financial year, the Chancellor has set a target for asset sales proceeds of £1,250m, £500m more than the original estimate made at the time of the last Budget.

Having already raised £830m from the sale of shares in Britoil and BP, Mr Lawson is well on course to achieve his target. The balance is expected to come from the sale of the Wytch Farm oil field in Dorset, and from the sale of government shares in Cable & Wireless, the telecommunications group.

Mr Lawson and other Treasury ministers have recently reiterated that privatization remains "a key element" of the Government's economic strategy. They believe that the programme could raise at least £10,000m over the next five years.

City analysts said last night that they suspected Mr Lawson might increase the £1,900m asset sale target during the next year, particularly if the alternative was a further threatened overshoot in the public sector borrowing requirement.

Other state-owned businesses that the Government has said it intends to privatize over the next few years include the British Airways Authority, the National Bus Company, the Royal Ordnance Factories, British Shipbuilders' warship yards and profitable parts of BF, such as Jaguar and Unipart. The Treasury is also keen to extend privatization to such monopolies as British Gas and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

According to Treasury rules, the proceeds of privatization count as "negative public spending", and so can be deducted from the overall spending total. The £1,900m figure approximates to just under 1 per cent of total public spending, but confirms that the privatization programme is being stepped up significantly.



Ripe assets: British Telecom (top), shares in which could raise £4,000m; drilling in the North Sea (left), where Enterprise Oil is a candidate for privatization; and Concorde (right), the flagship of British Airways, which the Government has pledged to return to the private sector.

Council house rents may not rise more than cost of living

By David Walker

Substantial cuts in outlays on public housing were announced, confirming ministers' view that councils have little further role in building homes for rent except to the elderly and the handicapped.

The impact of the reduction in housing capital spending will be disguised in 1984-85 by the still burgeoning scale of revenues from the sale of council houses and flats. The forecast for next year is over £1.5 billion for England in the official accounts this amount will all be recycled in new building and improvements.

But the net expenditure - the Exchequer's permission to borrow to build - shows the true position. Capital spending on housing is cut by nearly 9 per cent and there is a continuing fall in housing subsidy which helps councils pay off debt and keep rents down.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said at a press conference that on his estimates rents should rise next year by no more than the cost of living.

Mr Jenkin announced that gross housing spending next year would be almost the same in cash terms as in 1983-84. But net capital falls from £2,120m as envisaged by the Government last February, to £1,678m - by all of 20 per cent. Even this understates the cut somewhat because the Government will allow councils to carry forward money from 1983-84 to 1984-85.

However, Mr Jenkin wants to ensure that areas of housing need get priority. He wants to increase the proportion of capital receipts from sales that

he holds back from 50 per cent to 60 per cent to reallocate it to urban areas.

He said that overall the level of housing activity should be sustained and added: "I see no reason why spending on home improvement grants should not match the 1982-83 level."

Last night, Shelter, the campaign for housing, said Mr Jenkin was proposing a "massive" cut. It predicted that receipts from house sales would not match up with areas needing house building.

Mr Jenkin blamed the need for cuts in capital spending squarely on the local authorities' refusal to reduce their spending on staff and services. The Government had been forced to acknowledge councils' over-spending by adjusting its own plans by £500m.

Apart from housing, plans for spending in 1984-85 have been cut for the water authorities and the inner cities. Water authorities will be permitted to borrow one third less in cash to finance reservoir building and pipe laying - although Mr Jenkin noted they had under-spent their allocations of previous years.

Water rates should increase in line with the rise in prices.

Finance for the urban development corporations will increase slightly but most inner city programmes will be held at their existing cash levels. In total, the urban and derelict land schemes will get £424m in 1984-85, down £26m from the February plan.

AGRICULTURE

£422m extra for dairy surpluses

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Intervention purchases of surplus flours, malted barley, butter and skimmed milk powder, are expected to cost an extra £422m in 1984-85, Mr Michael Joplin, Minister of Agriculture, said.

That represents all but a small part of the additional £437m agricultural expenditure announced by the Chancellor.

Although part of it is refunded from the EEC budget as and when the surpluses are sold, usually at a heavy loss, it will strengthen demands for urgent action to deal with the mounting dairy surplus.

Mr Joplin also stated that compensatory allowances for hill livestock farmers would not be reduced, and that more money would be available for marginal farms once the European Commission had redesignated the so-called less favoured areas.

Winding up of the land settlement association smallholdings scheme would contribute towards savings of £11m, he said.

Lord Gray of Contin, Minister of State for Agriculture at the Scottish Office, said that the announcement about hill-livestock allowances would provide a substantial boost to confidence among farmers in the Highlands and Islands.

Contributions rise for higher paid

By Lorna Bourke

Employees earning more than £12,250 a year will find themselves paying up to £70 a year more in National Insurance contributions when higher scales come into operation in April.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday announced an increase in the upper and lower thresholds used for calculating National Insurance contributions, but there will be no rise in the flat rate charged, which remains at 9 per cent.

The lower threshold below which employees are not liable for National Insurance contributions goes up from £32.50 a week to £34 a week in April. Employees earning between £32.50 and £34 will be up to £3 a week better off. Part-time workers will be the main beneficiaries.

The upper earnings threshold above which contributions are not levied rises from £235 a week to £250.

Earnings within this band, which had previously been exempt from National Insurance contributions, will become subject to the full 9 per cent levy. Employees will find themselves paying up to £89 a year more for employees earning more than £235 a week.

For all employees earning between £34 and £235 a week the situation remains unchanged. National Insurance contributions at 9 per cent of

NATIONAL INSURANCE

earnings will continue to be levied.

Employees who are contracted out of the state earnings-related pension scheme will pay an extra 4p a week on earnings between £34 a week and £235 a week. Additional contributions will be payable on earnings between £235 and £250, the new upper limit. The maximum increase will be £1.07 for the employee and £1.17 for the employer.

The self-employed have not escaped. The flat rate Class 2 contributions goes up to £4.60 a week, which works out at an annual increase of £10.40 for those paying only Class 2 contributions.

Restrictions on offshore funds

Details of the new provisions to catch tax avoiders who invest in offshore roll-up funds were announced yesterday by the Chancellor. More than £1,500m has been pumped into the funds, which are mostly based in the Channel Islands.

The funds appeal particularly to higher rate taxpayers because they turn highly taxed income into lower taxed capital gains. Any gains on disposals made after January 1, next year will be taxed as income at the investor's highest rate.

TRANSPORT

Spending on roads up as fares aid cut

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

The figures for transport represent a marked shift from current expenditure such as road construction to capital expenditure such as road construction (£200m up).

Trunk road expenditure rises from £715m this year to £800m next year, and capital expenditure on local transport, roads, buses, trams, airports, ports, rises from £720m to £850m. But current expenditure on local transport, covering both public transport subsidies and road maintenance, is cut from £1,890m for the current year to a target of £1,560m for 1984-85.

External finance limits for British Rail are down as expected from £953m to £936m; and for British Airways from £58m to £160m reflecting expected higher profitability and repayment of debt to improve the airline's balance sheet.

The higher road construction budget means that the trunk road programme can be accelerated and bypasses round many towns and villages can be built. The Department of Transport declined yesterday to give details, at this stage, of which localities may benefit; but at least 14 important contracts worth £170m will be let soon as a result, it said.

Fowler promised 1% growth will persist

By Nicholas Timmins, Health Services Correspondent

Spending on the National Health Service is to rise by £800m next year, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced.

That is an increase of just over 1 per cent in real terms, providing the Government's assumptions that prices will rise by 5 per cent and pay by 3 per cent are met.

The rise is 0.5 per cent more than the 0.5 per cent increase in real terms that health authorities had been told earlier this year to plan on for the next decade, but it is based on spending after the Chancellor's 1 per cent in July.

Mr Fowler is also understood to have won an assurance in Cabinet that a similar level of growth will be allowed in 1985 and 1986.

The increase will roughly match the extra resources needed each year to cope with increased numbers of elderly, but extra developments and medical advances must be financed by efficiency savings.

NHS capital spending will rise by £50m, 7 per cent more than this year, to £760m. The Government has allowed an extra £190m next year for family doctor services, which this year overspent their budget by £10m.

Given that the gross increase in spending on such services this year was about £250m, the Government is allowing for

HEALTH

smaller increases in spending next year.

Announcing the changes, Mr Fowler said: "We have honoured our pledges to the NHS. We are already treating more patients than ever before."

The extra would cope with the increasing numbers of very old.

"These pressures will run at just under 1 per cent in the next few years and we are fully aware of the importance of coping with these demands. Together with the resources which can be saved by cost-improvement programmes and greater efficiency, these plans will enable the NHS to meet the growing pressures that it faces."

£70m on way for Rolls engine

A new version of the Rolls-Royce RB-211 jet engine, which powers aircraft like the Boeing 747 and whose cost brought the company to collapse in 1971, is to be backed by another £70m of repayable launch aid.

Confirming that in the Commons written answer yesterday, Mr Norman Lamont, the Minister of State for Industry, said that £60m would be sought in this year's winter supplementary estimates and a further £10m in 1984-85.

Nato 3% target growth to be abandoned

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain will abandon its target of achieving a real growth of 3 per cent a year in defence spending from 1986-87.

That was confirmed by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, who said that he had not argued for the existing commitment which ends in 1985-86 to be extended.

Britain had made a major effort to meet the spending target set by Nato. It would have been irresponsible to argue for the target to be continued indefinitely, Mr Heseltine said. If spending on the Falkland Islands was included, by the spring of 1985 defence spending would have risen by 21 per cent compared with 1978-79. If Falklands spending was excluded the growth would be 16 per cent.

Mr Heseltine said that defence spending in the next financial year would rise by 3.5 per cent in real terms, although the Treasury puts the figure at "some 3 per cent", and would rise again by 3 per cent in 1985-86.

The Ministry of Defence seems to have secured about £400m less than it wanted for

next year, although as a proportion of total planned public spending its share has changed minimally, 13.45 per cent on the basis of yesterday's forecasts, as against 13.68 per cent in the Public Expenditure White Paper published last February.

Mr Heseltine is thought to have argued for an increase of £200 to £300m above last February's plans. After allowing for various technical factors, he has emerged with £168m less than those plans envisaged.

He described that shortfall, equivalent to 1 per cent on a budget of £17bn, as being an extension of the £250m cuts which were imposed by the Chancellor in July for the current financial year.

In return, the Treasury has made concessions. It certainly wanted to cut defence spending by more than the £168m and it has also agreed that should inflation be higher than the assumed rates of 3 per cent for pay and 5 per cent for other expenditure then a "reconciliation" of the defence budget with the higher inflation rates would be made.

Main points of the economic forecast

- Economic growth of 3 per cent this year and next
- Inflation down to 4.5 per cent by Christmas, 1984, from 5 per cent at the end of 1983, after peaking at about 5.5 per cent in spring, 1984
- A zero balance of payments in 1984
- Adult employment unchanged at 2,850,000 in 1983-84 and 1984-85
- Public sector borrowing of £10,000m in 1983-84, £2,000m more than forecast in the Budget, which is assumed for the time being to fall to £8,000m in 1984-85

A summary of the economic prospects for 1984 states:

World economy: A vigorous rise in activity in the US is not being matched elsewhere: in parts of Europe, in OPEC, and in many of the developing countries, activity and imports have fallen, in the process of adjustment to international or national debt problems. World trade is only now beginning to recover after the fall of the last two years.

Output, demand and employment: In the UK, however, output has been rising since 1981, as real domestic demand has recovered, helped by falls in inflation and interest rates. Output in 1983 is expected to be about 3 per cent higher than in 1982. The growth in domestic demand is likely to slow down perhaps from 4 per cent in 1983 to 3 per cent in 1984, but a continued rise in investment and a recovery in exports should sustain the growth in activity.

With world demand recovering, and the profitability of home supply increasing, the forecast is for UK output to grow by 3 per cent in 1984 and for employment to rise.

Balance of payments: The main factor in the sharper growth of imports relative to exports since 1981 has been the recovery in domestic demand in the UK, ahead of most other industrial countries. This has been reflected in the current account of the balance of payments, where a surplus of more than £5bn in 1982 has given way to a small surplus in the first nine months of 1983.

With a recovery forecast for exports, the current account may remain near balance in 1984. The forecast assumes that

the exchange rate will not change much from recent levels. Inflation: This year has again seen a lower than expected rate of inflation in the UK. Costs are rising more slowly than prices, leaving room for a sizeable recovery in profitability from an historically low base. At the same time the real income of those it works has risen. Current inflationary pressures continue weak and by the end of next year inflation should be below the current rate of about 5 per cent.

Borrowing: The PSBR in this financial year, 1983-84, looks like turning out higher than expected at Budget time. This is despite the July 7 measures and partly reflects the same factors that caused higher than expected spending at the end of 1982-83. For 1984-85, this forecast continues to assume, as in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, a PSBR of 2½ per cent of GDP, or £8bn.

The present forecast, subject to a wide margin of error, assumes an increase of taxation in order to achieve this, after allowance for indexation of personal taxes and specific duties.

Monetary policy: Monetary policy in 1984-85 is assumed, like fiscal policy, to be consistent with the indications given in the MTFs. These included a range for monetary growth of 6-10 per cent.

Inflation prospects: Some further increase (in the retail price index), perhaps to about 5½ per cent, is expected for the 12-monthly rate in the first half of next year as past favourable factors drop out of the comparison. These effects should however be short-lived and the

12-monthly increase is expected to fall back, perhaps to around 4½ per cent by the end of 1984.

Personal consumption: Total real personal disposable income is now beginning to rise again as real take home pay rises and employment stops falling. The rise forecast for consumers' expenditure in 1984 reflects both a small further fall in saving and a rise in real after-tax incomes.

Demand and activity: As the UK and world recoveries become more firmly established the composition of final expenditure is expected to begin to shift away from personal consumption towards exports and industrial investment.

Productivity and the labour market: As output growth is being consolidated, so the fall in employment seems to be ending, manufacturing employment (which now accounts for about one quarter of total employment) has been declining more slowly in the last six months while outside manufacturing, employment is now rising. Unemployment may now be levelling off.

Fiscal projections: In the first seven months of 1983-84, the PSBR was just over £7bn; the total for the year as a whole is now projected at £10bn, some £2bn higher than forecast at Budget time. There is inevitably still a substantial margin of error surrounding this forecast (average errors in PSBR forecast at this time of year exceed £2bn) but there are several factors which give grounds for expecting increased public borrowing this year.

On the expenditure side the forecast for 1982-83 and information on likely spending this

Economic prospects: summary

	1982 to 1983	1983 to 1984	ave error from past forecasts
A Output and expenditure at constant 1980 prices			
Gross domestic product (at factors cost)	3%	3%	1%
Consumers' expenditure	3½%	2½%	1%
General government current expenditure	2½%	1%	1½%
Fixed investment	2½%	4%	2½%
Exports of goods and services	1%	4%	3%
Change in rate of stock-building as a p.c. of level of GDP	1%	1½%	1%
Imports of goods and services	5%	5%	1%
B Balance of payments on current account (£bn)	1½	6	3
C Retail prices index (4th quarter)	5	4½	3

1 Forecast includes effect of fiscal adjustment 1984-85

2 Errors relate to average differences (on either side of central figure) between forecast and outcome. Errors are after adjustment for effects of major changes in fiscal policy, where excluded from forecast

3 Average error for inflation calculated from a period of much higher inflation and probably overstates margin of error at low rates of inflation

Public Sector Borrowing

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Gen govt expenditure	132	139	145½
Gen govt receipts	-122	-128	-137½
Imputed fiscal adjustment	-	-	-3½
Gen Govt Borrow	10	11	8
10 as percentage of GDP	3½%	3½%	3%
Money GDP at market prices	282	305	329

1 On the same assumption as in the 1983 MTFs about the PSBR as a proportion of GDP

2 Totals may not add due to rounding

Lawson signals tax rises

Continued from page 1

dition in 1984-85 at the intended total of £126.4b.

If that target is hit, it would mean that public spending, allowing for inflation, would be broadly the same as in the current financial year. So, as Mr Lawson claimed, public expenditure "should continue to fall as a percentage of Gross Domestic product from 42.5 per cent this year to 42 per cent in 1984-85."

Of the £2,000m increase now forecast for public borrowing this year over the £8.2b Budget target, three-quarters results from higher-than-planned spending and one-quarter from lower revenues, mostly local rates.

The spending overshoot has been concentrated on four main programmes: the social security budget, where both take-up and benefit rates are higher than predicted; the cost of food price support under EEC rules; current spending by town halls; and health and personal social services, chiefly in the cost of the family practitioner service.

All these programmes will cost more than originally planned next year as well.

Housing, defence, the nationalized industries and trade, industry and employment services have borne the brunt of the cuts needed next year to keep the overall planning total for public spending at the original figure of £126,400m.

The result will be cuts in home improvement grants and housing benefits for those on low incomes, increases in the cost of electricity and gas (by 3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively on latest estimate) and reductions in regional aid to industry.

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Police face Ripper writ from mother

Mrs Doreen Hill, mother of the Yorkshire Ripper's thirteenth and final victim, has issued a writ against West Yorkshire police alleging incompetence in its failure to apprehend Peter Sutcliffe before her daughter was killed.

The High Court writ seeks damages against the chief constable, Mr Colin Sampson, Miss Jacqueline Hill, aged 21, a Leeds University student, was killed in the city three years ago yesterday.

Mrs Hill, from Ormesby, near Middlesbrough, said that she would give any award to charity.

Her solicitor, Mr Anelay Hart, said yesterday: "A protective writ has been issued to keep within the time limit. It has not been served yet but we have another year in which to do that."

Jones returns

Dr Robert Jones, aged 41, returned to his surgery yesterday on bail after being questioned by detectives for three days about the death of Mrs Diane Jones, his third wife. He was arrested on Monday.

Author's divorce

Mr Quentin Crews, aged 57, the author and food critic, and his third wife Susan, aged 34, are ending their marriage of 13 years, according to the latest list to be heard by the London Divorce Court.

Falkland deal

A dispute which threatened a strike in the Falklands' wool industry, has been settled with an arbitrator's ruling in London that gives the Sheep Owners' Association's employees more than 70 per cent of a pay demand.

The Chesterfield by-election Labour unites against Benn the bogymen

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

There is a discreet sign over the central car park in Chesterfield which shows that unemployment in the area is now 11.220. That includes 14.2 per cent of the male workforce, up from 9.6 per cent in the 1981 census report.

Such figures have become commonplace, but they help to explain the rich seam of anti-Conservative feeling in a community that has all the trappings of market town prosperity.

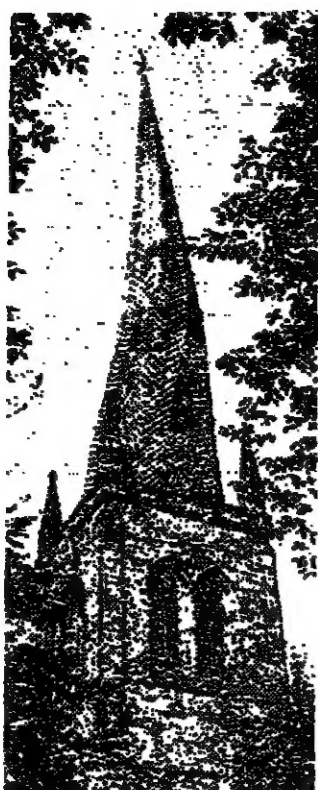
The town, just three miles from the M1 and the gateway to the delights of the Derbyshire Peak District, is a happy compromise of history and development, from the fourteenth century twisted steeple to 650,000 sq ft of industrial and trading estates.

The publicity Chesterfield is about to receive from the by-election caused by Mr Eric Varley's impending resignation from the Commons could be worth a great deal of tourist and development advertising.

Mr Varley's decision to leave the Commons at the end of the year to join the Coalite conglomerate in neighbouring Bolsover has undoubtedly saddened many Labour Party members and voters in the town.

But some left-wingers also feel that the party may suffer from a double resentment in the by-election. The fact that Mr Varley should have contested the seat in June only to renounce his retirement in November may, on past by-election form, provoke a sharp fall in turnout among Labour voters.

That handicap may be aggravated by the suggestion that Coalite is not the most popular of local companies, having tarnished its image with controversial policies on the



Chesterfield's twisted steeple.

tippling of toxic chemical waste and its role in the Falkland Islands.

Nevertheless, Labour would be hard pressed to lose the constituency were it not for the fact that Mr Wedgwood Benn has declared his interest in winning the Labour nomination with the support of some influential union barons in the area.

That news has helped to forge a formidable alliance between the Labour leadership at Westminster and local ward delegates in Chesterfield who share the view that Mr Benn is the bogymen to be blamed for all

Labour's troubles between 1981 and this year's general election.

Mr Benn has a chance of getting the Chesterfield nomination, but he will have to take a calculated gamble on the town's independent-minded, middle-of-the-road Labour management committee. He may yet be advised that the risk of rejection is too great.

The Liberals have decided to choose the candidate they fielded in the 1979 and 1983 elections.

The Conservatives are also likely to choose the same candidate as at the general election this year. Those decisions could help to sway the Labour Party in favour of caution and a local replacement for Mr Varley.

One informed Labour source said in Chesterfield this week that if Mr Benn did win the nomination it would be entirely possible for the Liberal Alliance to win the seat on a swing away from Labour and the Conservatives.

On the figures for the past five general elections such predictions seem preposterous. Labour achieved its lowest poll for 13 years last June, but still managed to win 48.1 per cent of the vote. The lowest Conservative vote was 13.393, or 25.9 per cent of the poll in October, 1974, and the Tories have a reputation for retaining their basic support.

The Liberals appear to have reached a peak of just under 10,000 votes, about 20 per cent of turnout, in February, 1974, and last June. It would, therefore, appear that it would take a political earthquake to break Labour's hold on the constituency.

General election: Mr E. Varley (Lab) 23,881; Mr N. Bourne (C) 16,118; Mr M. Payne (L/All) 9,705; Lab Maj: 7,763; Electorate 68,486.

Cuts urged in Soviet share of UK cruises

By Michael Bailly
Transport Editor

The Government is expected to take a tough line in Anglo-Soviet talks next month over Soviet ships that built up their share of the UK cruise market while British ships - the Canberra, QE2, and Uganda - were away in the Falklands last year.

Commercial talks with Soviet lines have failed to produce the required cut-back, P & O and Cunard said yesterday and without government action Britain's home-based cruise fleet could eventually be forced out of business with loss of jobs and serious implications for defence and the balance of payments.

Soviet ships built up their share of UK cruising capacity from about 15 per cent in 1979 to 40 per cent this year, and the British lines want a reduction to the 1979 level. All that the Soviet lines have agreed to so far is a 6 per cent cut to 34 per cent next year. The British companies say that it is now up to the Government.

"Years of experience in dealing with the Russians has proved that commercial negotiations do not produce results unless the western companies are seen to have the full support of their government who will be prepared to act where necessary," Dr Rodney Leach, P & O director for cruising, said yesterday.

With prices at about £700 for a fortnight's Mediterranean cruise compared with £1,400 by Cunard or P & O, the Soviet ships are heavily subsidized.

Dr Leach said: "We calculate that the Russians earned about £10m from their UK operations last year, but it would cost any western owner at least £18m just to carry out the programme, using the cheapest ships and seamen they could get."



Friends again: President Moi of Kenya (left) and President Nyerere of Tanzania who have settled their financial differences.

Tanzania reopens land border with Kenya after six years

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The 500-mile land border between Kenya and Tanzania, closed since early 1977, reopened yesterday a few hours after the Presidents of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda had agreed on a settlement of the financial matters arising from the collapse of the East African Community more than six years ago.

Journalists returning here from the summit meeting in Arusha, northern Tanzania, were among the first to cross a frontier which until yesterday has been tightly closed to all normal traffic.

Kenya has particularly welcomed Tanzania's decision to

allow resumption of normal traffic, the original closure having been ordered by Tanzania in a move to "punish" Kenya for allegedly dominating the community's economy. The

The Kenya Times, newspaper of the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) said in a front-page leading article: "A new era has dawned upon East Africa - an era of hope and confidence, trust and true friendliness, until and political stability."

The three countries also agreed to share out the community's unpaid debts, again with Kenya contributing most.

travellers have had to fly via a third country.

Kenya's export, import and tourist trade will benefit considerably.

The border reopening follows the signing late on Wednesday of an agreement to share the assets of the former Community Kenya and Tanzania are to pay £128m (with Kenya paying the bigger share) to Uganda, in recognition of the fact that it inherited more community assets than Uganda.

The three countries also agreed to share out the community's unpaid debts, again with Kenya contributing most.

Japan clears decks for December poll

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

After more than a month of political deadlock, leaders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party have set the stage for a December general election, a fight which Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, would probably prefer to put off until calmer days.

A decision to dissolve Parliament and call an election appears almost certain. The most likely date is December 18.

In extending the current session until November 28, the ruling party reached a compromise with the opposition, which has boycotted Parliament since last month's bribery conviction of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister.

This cleared the way for the Lower House to pass key tax cuts and other legislation and send it to the Upper House, where opposition parties have agreed to vote. The opposition had demanded dissolution of Parliament in exchange for cooperation. It hopes to take advantage of anti-Tanaka sentiment.

Paradoxically, the strongest pressure for dissolution and an early election came from the ruling party's powerful Tanaka faction, which fears that delay would hurt its chances.

With Tanaka loyalists occupying key party and Cabinet positions, Mr Nakasone's room for manoeuvre has been limited. His attempts to persuade Mr Tanaka to resign, thus ending the political stalemate, proved futile. Only a year ago, Mr Tanaka's support was

critical in Mr Nakasone's election as president of the LDP, and hence Prime Minister.

Mr Nakasone and others in the ruling party view the prospect of an early election warily. He is said to prefer January, but publicly is still uncommitted to a date.

His party is certain to lose some ground in the Lower House, where it holds an absolute majority as a result of an unexpectedly big win in the last general election. At that time, the LDP benefited from sympathy over the sudden death of Masayoshi Ohira, their Prime Minister.

The election will probably see the ruling party reduced from its bloated majority of 286 seats in the 511-member Lower House. If the party wins at least 270 seats, the outcome will be deemed a victory for Mr Nakasone. He will then stay in office with a much stronger hand.

His personal popularity has been boosted by a successful visit last week to President Reagan. Whether that will help the party, however, is questionable.

If the LDP total falls below 270, it could spell trouble. A loss of 10 to 15 seats seems likely. Whatever happens, Mr Tanaka's faction is likely to gain.

Mr Tanaka resigned from the LDP in 1976 after being charged with taking bribes from Lockheed Corporation to influence sales of aircraft in Japan while he was Rime Minister.

Bonn dials a deal with East Berlin

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

After a year of haggling, West and East Germany have reached agreement on new postal communications which will make it easier for East Germans to dial directly across the border.

Bonn will increase its annual payments to East Berlin for postal and telephone traffic from DM85m (£21m) to DM 200m. East Germany was demanding DM 300m, and a compromise was reached after postal ministers met in Geneva.

East Berlin has also promised to deliver mail from the West more promptly. Losses - especially of parcels from West Germans to relatives in the East - will be cut, direct dialling gradually introduced and more telex and telephone lines installed.

Meanwhile, Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the West German Economic Minister, who is heading a trade delegation to Moscow, has announced that the Soviet Union agreed to restore direct dialling to the Federal Republic for German businessmen in Moscow. In spite of Western protests, the Russians abolished direct dialling in and out of their country last year.

South Africa "I don't know much about it..."

South Africa arouses more controversy than almost any other country in the world.

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After
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President Spiros Kyprianou met Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night during her two-day visit to London on her way to the United Nations.

It is understood that he urged Mrs Thatcher to take a hard line against the newly declared Republic of Cyprus and against the Turkish Cypriots.

Cypriots are working with the United Nations on an alternative draft statement for a settlement of the Cyprus problem, the inclusion of which would be a precondition for the successful state.

Tension has become the main theme of the diplomatic exchanges in the region. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to see Mr Kyprianou in London today. Yesterday Mr Raulo Tienari

Tension

All is quiet at the Louisa checkpoint, where a Green Line runs between the two parts of the island. The residence of the Greek Cypriot President, Mr Nicosia, is in the north.

Forty-eight hours after the Turkish Cypriots proclaimed an independent state, the island which has divided into two communities for more than 30 years has not yet seen any other cars to remain on the island.

Some Greek Cypriots who go on their way to Germany by air, however, can still cross the no-man's-land between the two parts of the island. The concrete road is painted in the Greek colours of red, white, and blue, and the motto "liberty or death" is written on the wall.

If there is any tension here it is not obvious. Except for the host of journalists waiting their turn to cross to find out if Greek Cypriots are likely to go to war again.

On the Turkish Cypriot side, an indifferent Greek Cypriot soldier, the red and white flag waving from the top of a steady flow of trucks serving the multi-national peacekeeping force.

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After the Turkish Cypriot UDI

Kyprianou asks Britain to take harder line against secession

By Richard Dowdes

President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus met Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night during a stopover visit to London on his way to the United Nations in New York.

It is understood that he urged Mrs Thatcher to take a harder line against the newly declared Turkish Republic of North Cyprus and against Turkey which Mr Kyprianou sees as its backer.

Cyprus is working with non-aligned nations on an alternative draft statement for discussion at the emergency session of the UN and its urging the inclusion of sanctions against the secessionist state.

Britain has become the centre of the diplomatic vortex created by the secession. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to see Mr Kyprianou, the Turkish Foreign Minister in London today. On Wednesday Mr Rauf Denktaş

stopped off in London on his way to New York.

If the non-aligned draft does include sanctions, Cyprus will support it rather than the British draft which simply calls on the Turkish Cypriots to revoke their declarations of independence and urges all nations "not to recognize any Cyprus state other than the Republic of Cyprus".

Meanwhile both Greece and Turkey have assured Britain that they respect the Cyprus Treaty of Guarantee of 1960 which made the two and Britain the guarantors of Cypriot independence.

However Turkey has agreed to attend talks with Britain while Greece has said that it could not agree because Turkey had recognized the newly declared state. Greece has suggested instead that Britain should act as intermediary.

Greece has also announced that it is breaking off the Greek-

Turkish dialogue on tourism and economic cooperation, but a spokesman for Turkey dismissed the talks "since they are not concerned with the real issues between the two countries".

A Turkish spokesman said that Mr Turkmen would be giving Sir Geoffrey a more detailed explanation of Ankara's views but he added that it would have been more reasonable if Britain had made its call for talks before issuing an official statement and before applying to the United Nations Security Council.

"Nevertheless we have informed Britain of our readiness for consultations envisaged by the guarantee treaty."

He said it was out of the question for Turkey to withhold diplomatic recognition of the newly declared state when Turkish Cypriots announced they had achieved the statehood denied them for 20 years.



Athens summit: Before leaving for London yesterday, President Kyprianou of Cyprus (left) met Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister.

Sudan rebels free two Britons but still hold hostages

From Gill Lask, Khartoum

Two Britons working in Sudan were released unharmed yesterday by rebels in southern Sudan, but nine other foreign workers are still being held.

The Britons, who were working for US companies subcontracted to Chevron Oil, were apparently released without Army intervention. No conditions were set for their release by the rebels. They are Mr Charles Downman, a road construction superintendent working for Reading and Bates Construction, and Mr John Wood, a surveyor with Petty Ray Geophysical. They had been seized on Tuesday night.

They were working on preparation of a site for drilling some 15 miles south of the former Chevron headquarters at Bentiu in Bahr el Ghazal.

Those still in captivity are seven Frenchmen and two Pakistanis, all technicians or engineers working for a French firm, CCI (Compagnie des Constructions Internationales), on building Jonglei Canal. The seven were seized 130 miles south of Sobat, canal headquarters, in Jonglei province.

The attack was apparently timed to coincide with Pres-

ident Nimeiry's visit to Paris, and the President announced both incidents at a press conference in Paris.

The rebels, who claimed allegiance to the Sudanese People's Liberation Front, have made several demands which are more political than practical. These include the lifting of Islamic law, imposed on September 8, the freeing of all political detainees and their safe passage to Libya.

They have also demanded the halting of canal construction, of the pipeline project which is due to make Sudan a petroleum exporter by 1986, and the stopping of exploration by the French company, Total.

Both areas have been particularly prone to rebel activity in recent months, but Jonglei canal workers always enjoyed a tacit understanding that they would not be troubled. Chevron, too, had a modus vivendi with various local people.

The seizure of the Britons can, therefore, be taken as a warning, but the Jonglei attack may have a different meaning. Informed sources believe the two cases may not be directly related.

Tension low, resentment high

From Mario Modiano, Nicosia

All is quiet at the Ledra Palace checkpoint, where the Green Line runs between the lush gardens of the Greek Ambassador's residence and the Goethe Institute.

Forty-eight hours after the Turkish Cypriots proclaimed an independent state, the border which has divided the two communities for more years than either cares to remember, remained open, as usual, to foreigners only.

Some Greek Cypriot schoolgirls on their way to German language courses calmly crossed into no-man's-land, past the concrete roadblock painted in the Greek colours, blue and white, and displaying the patriotic motto "liberty or death".

If there is any tension here, it is not obvious. Except, of course, for the hosts of Journalists waiting their turn to go across to find out if Greek and Turks are likely to go on the warpath again.

On the Turkish Cypriot side, past indifferent Greek and Turkish sentries, the red and white swing bar went up to admit a steady flow of UN vehicles serving the multinational peacekeeping force, or

foreign diplomats whose homes are on the Turkish side and their offices in the Greek Sections.

On a bench opposite the Turkish police hut a middle-aged Turkish Cypriot woman sunned herself, knitting a pullover as she waited for her sister, a cancer patient. She was eventually brought in a UN ambulance after being discharged from a hospital on the Greek side. "Some facilities are better there", the woman explained.

Otherwise contacts between the two communities are minimal, and what the British Government now ponderously calls "the purported secession" by the Turkish Cypriots is likely to reduce them even further.

The Green Line may divide a pattern of national colours and loyalties, but it is the mutual mistrust and resentment that has created the gulf.

A dominant sign just inside the Turkish sector points the way to the "Museum of Barbarism", where Turkish Cypriots try to illustrate their claims.

Since partition already

existed, why was the proclamation of independence necessary? Dr Kostas Atakol, a US-trained civil engineer whose official title is "Foreign Minister of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus", says: "Don't you think that 20 years of feeling like a foreign tourist in your own island is enough?"

The two sides share more than driving on the left-hand side of the road, a feature from the British. High above the checkpoint the power lines show that northern Cyprus still relies on the south for its electricity.

Mr Andreas Christofidīs, the Cyprus Government spokesman, was asked if, after secession, the power would be cut off. "We are considering all possible options", he said.

But Dr Atakol said: "They have no right to cut off our electricity. The power stations were built with aid granted on condition that they serve both communities."

The threat, however, is a serious one. The Turks could retaliate by cutting off Nicosia's fresh water supply, which comes from the north, but the Greek Cypriots claim that they could manage without.

Trudeau's wife files for divorce

Toronto (Reuters) - Margaret

Trudeau yesterday filed a petition for divorce from her estranged husband, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, her lawyer said. The couple have been separated for more than six years, and Mrs Trudeau now works as a hostess on a television show. She is hoping to marry an Ottawa estate agent.

Turks acquitted

Ankara (Reuters) - Two Turkish journalists from the right-wing *Tercuman*, who faced up to eight years' imprisonment on charges of insulting the military Government, were acquitted by an Istanbul military court.

Mine disaster

Johannesburg (AFP) - Six black miners were killed in an accident 11,500ft below the surface in an Anglo-American Corporation gold mine at Carletonville, near here.

Nazi may be tried in Israel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel is pressing ahead with controversial legal moves to hold the first trial of an alleged Nazi war criminal here since 1961 when Adolf Eichmann was convicted of crimes against humanity and later hanged at a jail near Tel Aviv.

The Government is believed to have recently taken formal steps to secure the extradition from the US of a former SS guard now working as a motor mechanic who was known to Jewish inmates of Poland's notorious Treblinka death camp, as "Ivan the Terrible" when he operated the gas chambers there.

The suspected war criminal is a Ukrainian who, according to Israeli sources, has been living in Cleveland, Ohio, since entering America in 1953. He is one of 200 alleged Nazi war criminals known to be living in the US, at least 10 of whom the Likud Government is hoping to put on trial in Jerusalem.

Mr Yitzhak Feinberg, the Justice Ministry spokesman, refused to confirm or deny that extradition proceedings were being sought against the former

Treblinka guard. He said it was Israeli policy never to reveal the identities of those whose deportation was being demanded until they were under arrest.

But he did confirm that the Government regard it as "an historical obligation" to try to bring Nazi criminals to justice. "We do not intend to forget", he said. Legal work was under way to bring an unspecified number of the 200 suspected second world war criminals back from the US to Israel.

Under a law passed in 1950, alleged Nazi war criminals can be tried before a panel of judges in Israel, where there are no jury trials, for Holocaust crimes committed in any "hostile country". Those discovered by the US Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations

to be living in America cannot be tried there, but they can be deported on the basis of supplying misleading information when they sought naturalization.

The difficulty facing the Reagan Administration was finding a country prepared to take those former Nazis it was anxious to expel. Israel agreed in principle two years ago, but until now no action has been taken because the authorities were determined to build up a water-tight case before initiating extradition proceedings.

If a trial was to go ahead without a solid case, Israel could be in the embarrassing position of having Nazis found not guilty ending up living there. That is an impossible thought", Mr Feinberg said.

Czechs defect

Munich (AP) - Two Czechoslovak lumberjacks fled across the border into Bavaria where they asked for political asylum. Twelve civilians have defected across the Czechoslovak border so far this year.

Peking fashion

Peking (Reuters) - Girls who wear make-up and fashionable clothes should not be accused of pursuing a bourgeois way of life, the *China Youth News* said in a strong rejection of party "ideological contamination".

Romanians facing meat shortages

From Our Correspondent Vienna

There will be more meat shortages next year, President Ceausescu warned Romanians in an interview in *Scintila*, the party paper.

Over the past two years, Romania has increased exports of meat to the West and the Middle East in an effort to reduce its debts. Next year the debts must be reduced by a quarter, Mr Ceausescu said.

Although meat is not yet rationed in Bucharest, it is difficult to find. Outside the capital, the monthly ration is 1kg (2.2lb) a head.

This and other shortages have produced a flourishing black market. The President said he would not tolerate speculation. Those who traded illegally were "engaging in one of the most dangerous forms of counter-revolutionary activity".

Mr Ceausescu was optimistic about the future of the economy. Industrial production was up by 6.6 per cent he said.



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Soviet threat to break off both series of arms talks in Geneva

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

A senior Soviet official yesterday hinted that Moscow would walk out of the Geneva talks on strategic arms reduction (Start) as well as those on intermediate missiles in Europe (INF).

The official, Mr Vadim Zagladin told a press conference in Moscow that cruise and Pershing 2 were regarded by the Soviet Union not only as strategic weapons, but also as tactical weapons. "Deployment of these Nato weapons will, therefore, change the strategic balance and will make us think to what extent the Start talks are connected with INF."

Mr Zagladin, who is deputy head of the Central Committee international information department, said the Soviet-US talks in Geneva were "on the brink of breakdown". Failure at Geneva would be entirely the fault of the US, he added.

Asked if the breakdown would be permanent or temporary Mr Zagladin replied: "That is up to the Americans." The collapse of the INF talks was bound to have a "negative impact" both on Start and on the Vienna talks on mutual and balanced force reduction

(MBFR), as well as on the Helsinki process.

Soviet spokesmen have recently suggested that the start talks could continue even if the INF debate was broken off, and that cruise, Pershing 2 and some British and French missiles could be included in an expanded version of the Start talks.

Jane's Defence Review said yesterday that the Soviet Union would develop its own submarine-launched cruise missile next year, followed by ground-launched versions. The Soviet cruise - code-named the SSN21 - would have a range of 1,500 miles and was largely based on stolen Western technology.

Mr Zagladin denied that the American cruise and Pershing missiles were a legitimate response to Soviet SS20s, and said that further measures against Europe and America were under consideration. The coming "cold December" - reference to Moscow's snowy weather - would be matched by an increasingly chilly international atmosphere.

In a leading article today,

released in advance by Tass, Pravda accuses the US of "playing with numbers" at Geneva in the vain hope of deceiving public opinion.

● GENEVA: "They are continuing, yes", Mr Paul Nitze, the US delegate in the INF talks said yesterday with a smile on returning to his office after a 2 hours 15 minutes meeting at the Soviet diplomatic mission further up the optimistically named Avenue de la Paix (Alan McGregor writes).

However moribund, the negotiations also included yesterday a two-and-a-half hour session between US and Soviet delegations in the parallel Start talks. Incidentally, they talked for nearly three hours on Tuesday when their INF counterparts were in and out in a bare 35 minutes.

The next meetings on Tuesday (Start) and Wednesday (INF) are, by Soviet indications, liable to be the last. The West German Bundestag deployment debate, on Monday and Tuesday, is expected to be followed immediately by the arrival in West Germany of the first Pershing 2s.

Pilgrims disrupt Queen's schedule

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A mass pilgrimage of Hindu revivalists forced a last-minute change in plans for the Queen's visit to Delhi yesterday. Soon after her arrival on a nine-day state visit, she was due to lay a wreath on the black marble memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, but security fears caused the ceremony to be postponed until today.

The Rajghat, where Gandhi's body was cremated on the banks of the holy river Yamuna, is one of the most sacred spots to Hindus, and yesterday Delhi was filled with the saffron flags and robes of the pilgrims, who are bearing pitchers of holy water across the country to whip up renewed commitment to the Hindu religion.

Swastika badges, gilded carts, and religious music mark the movement of the pious or journey through the capital. The procession travelling by lorry and bus will take a month to make the trip from Haridwar north of here to the southernmost tip of India at Kanyakumari. Two other big pilgrimages are also crossing the country, one from Kanyakumari to the south of Tamil Nadu, the other from Calcutta in the far east of the country to Sonmash in the far west.

Mrs Gandhi has bitterly criticized the pilgrimages, organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the World Hindu Council, saying that they were perpetrating communal disharmony.

She said in a public speech that rabid communal forces, bent on dividing the country's unity, were behind the Yatra. She added that it would sow the seeds of distrust and sharpen the fears of the minority communities.

Hindu astrologers also managed to bring about a change in the Queen's programme. She was due to arrive at the ceremonial reception at Delhi airport promptly at noon, but this was judged on analysis of the anguries to be an inauspicious moment. Accordingly the British Airways Tristar in which the royal party is travelling taxi'd up to the red carpet at five minutes past instead.

The Queen was greeted at the foot of the aircraft steps by the President of India, Mr Giani Zail Singh, resplendent in a snowy white turban, his



Women of power: The Queen, on the first day of her Indian tour, talks to Mrs Gandhi outside the presidential palace.

daughter Dr Gurdeep Kaur, and Mrs Gandhi.

She drove in a black bullet-proof Mercedes - security precautions having been intensified here since the bomb explosion killed South Korean visitors in Burma - to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's palace.

The route was decorated by 25ft high photographs of common values and common interests, she said. "A devotion to democratic ideals and to the institutions which main-

tain them, strong industrial and commercial links, and in Britain today a thriving community of people of Indian origin who make such a full contribution to our national life."

Earlier, as the Queen and Prince Philip left Dhaka on the way to Delhi there were further reminders of the Queen's moving visit on Wednesday to a save the children fund centre. She told the British Director, Mr Tony Hickmann, "I hope all goes well for your centre."

"We share a wealth of common values and common interests," she said. "A devotion to democratic ideals and to the institutions which main-

French left to iron out differences at summit

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties are to meet on December 1 to sort out differences which have become embarrassingly apparent. It is the first such meeting for more than a year. The Communists insist that there is no question of their leaving the Government.

Speculation about their intentions is rife again, however, as a result of the spectacular resignation of M Georges Valbon, a leading member of the Communist Party's central committee, as president of the state-owned national coal industry.

His resignation came on the eve of the parliamentary debate on next year's budget which includes plans to limit state aid to the crisis-ridden coal industry to its present level of 6.8 billion francs (\$256m), meaning a large cut in real terms.

M Valbon said that Government plans would lead to a substantial fall in coal production, closure of still workable pits, and the loss of thousands of jobs. When he was appointed by the Socialist Government two years ago, the Government had promised to "reactivate" the coal industry, increase production by 50 per cent by 1980, and provide more jobs, reversing the steady decline over the preceding 25 years.

The Government has now totally abandoned its earlier expansionist policies.

It was widely believed that M Valbon's departure had the full approval of the Communist leadership. But the party has sought to play down its significance, insisting that it was a purely personal decision.

The Communists have been playing an increasingly blatant double act over the past few months. They openly criticized government policies, while continuing to protest their total solidarity with the government and support for the Communist leadership. But the party has sought to play down its significance, insisting that it was a purely personal decision.

The Communists insist that the forthcoming "summit" between the two parties has been called to "examine the means for a counter-offensive against the right", rather than to measure the extent of their differences which they maintain are minimal. The Socialists disagree, claiming that Communist criticism are undermining the Government's credibility.

SPD likely to oppose deployment

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Social Democrats today begin a special congress at which they are expected to vote overwhelmingly against deployment of new Nato missiles in this country, thus ending the long-standing political consensus on West German security policy.

Only former chancellor Helmut Schmidt, one of the principal architects of the 1979 Nato twin-track decision, is expected to speak out strongly in favour.

Herr Willy Brandt, the party chairman, has already declared his opposition.

The SPD vote, reflecting widespread opposition to the Nato missiles throughout West Germany, does not affect the Government's determination to stick to its Nato commitments.

Mitterrand says missile crisis worst since 1962

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The Nato missile deployment crisis is the most serious the world has known since Berlin in 1948 and Cuba in 1962, President Mitterrand said during a wide-ranging television interview on defence and international affairs.

The French public has good reason to be concerned, but that did not mean they should lose their sangfroid. The previous crises had been overcome and the present one must be mastered in its turn.

To do that, a number of conditions were necessary, starting with the balance of forces between East and West. France was in favour of the reduction of arms to their lowest possible level, but only if a balance of forces was preserved. "Without that balance, war is at our very doors."

M Mitterrand said he be-

lieved the Russians would break off the Geneva arms talks the moment the first Pershing 2 missiles were deployed in West Germany. France would do all it could to ensure the rupture was not permanent; it was imperative to go on negotiating.

"I think that the leaders of the two superpowers are wise enough to grasp at every opportunity, because they do not want war", he said. He believed the Soviet leaders were primarily concerned with the interests of their own people, pointing out that 20 million Russians died in the last war.

M Mitterrand reiterated France's refusal to have its nuclear force included in the Geneva talks. There was no question of France taking part in any arms reduction talks until the two superpowers had agreed to a "considerable reduction" in their arsenals.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT

THE SUDANESE PEOPLE'S GROUPING



Mr Mohamed Abd el-Jawad Ahmed, head of Political and Information Bureau in UK and Ireland

power failures in the capital for over three continuous weeks, the division of the society into two classes - a limited minority enjoying all luxury of life and an overwhelming majority left to starve, only surviving under the poverty line.

Although, he admits that the sufferings of our people these days need no leaflets to publicize them, yet, he is powerless and unable to take any measures to eliminate them, other than to wait for mother nature to flood the land with petrol, then the national economy will receive a boost that would take it out of the intensive care unit. The speech was an illustration to the land and all feelings towards the masses of people and their daily sufferings. A class that no longer cares, other than the care to remain in power, to defend its interests and to congest wealth, along with interests of its local and foreign allies.

In such circumstances of spreading isolation, mounting crisis and lack of time and space to manoeuvre, no other avenue is left open to the ruling class, but to fall in bondage of foreign power and to confront the growing forces of popular opposition by fire and intimidation. The national economy has been handed over to be administered by the INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND and behind it the group of Paris and London club. Their decisions top those of Nemeiry and his ministers, the Minister of the Finance Ibrahim Moneim and the Governor of the Central Bank Farouk Al Magboul. The regime threw itself in the open arms of the RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE and called for the AMERICAN AWACS to provide protection in the face of popular fury. The regime converted itself into a horse of Troy to the American imperialism in Africa and the Arab World and dragged our country to the arena of international conflicts, in a way that threatens its national independence and unity.

The speech of the Head of the dictatorial regime about international conspiracies is nothing

PARTIES AND FORCES OF THE SUDANESE PEOPLE'S GROUPING

Unionist Democratic Party,
Umma Party - Ansar Imam El Hadi El Mahdi.

Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party (Sudan Branch)
Sanu Party - South Sudan.

Regional Grouping in North and South of Sudan
National Independent Personalities.

but a pretext to justify falling in the grip of American influence, thus pulling the Sudan into the arena of international conflicts, in a desperate attempt to fiddle the cards, misguide the masses and fog its vision. What is taking place in our country is as clear as daylight, it is a bitter and a long fight between a ruling junta of no ethics and the masses of the Sudanese people, who are waging a glorious struggle to preserve their national identity and independence and who are keen to keep their country far away from the vicious circle of international conflicts, colonial influence and to restore democracy and to diminish all laws restricting the exercise of fundamental freedoms. It is a fight between two contradicting factions. But victory will be for the people, as outlined in the manifesto of Forces and Parties of The Sudanese People's Grouping, formed in Khartoum during the January 1982 popular uprising and which basically adopts the policies of organising the masses in preparation for civil commotion and popular uprising to eradicate the dictatorial authoritarian regime and to establish a democratic independent substitute.

General Nemeiry says: He who stops going to work, will have to stop forever. We say nothing is new, but it only reflects a true image of the General's political isolation and his appalling insistence to remain in power, even if it means reducing the Sudan into a rubble. On the other hand, it reflects a counter image of a widening front of popular uprising following the accomplishment of the task of civil commotion. Therefore, we count Nemeiry's threats as nothing but powerless intimidation that is bound to collapse at the foot of the giant popular movement. This is proved by the victorious Judges of the Sudan in their glorious stand that forced the regime to concede defeat, draw back its decisions and comply with numerous requests, on top of which to reinstate those dismissed, to sack the Chief Justice, to amend the law of the Supreme Judiciary Council and other considerable gains. They are still keeping momentum and launching the struggle to secure independence of the Judiciary System, the rule of law and to abrogate all exceptional laws.

Nothing equals the dictatorial regime's isolation from the people's cause, other than its isolation from the soldiers and officers of our armed forces, despite Nemeiry's odd insinuation that his guarantor to rule is the backing of the armed forces. Yet, soldiers and officers uprising against the dictatorial rule continued through the years and the most recent one was cracked down on the 28/8/83 with the arrest of several officers of the armoured corps. Such attitude is quite familiar to the Sudanese army, as it has always taken the people's side, particularly, during the great October revolt, when the army rejected to support General Abboud's military regime. Now it is proved beyond doubt that military coups lead to nowhere but closed alleys, as it is parallel now with the 25th May coup, which ended in conflict with the people's aspirations and fell ultimately in the bondage of foreign domination.

Nemeiry and his dictatorial regime kept on bargaining with our people's aspirations and hopes and converted them into empty slogans. He bargained in his early days with socialism, democracy, development, South Sudan cause, national unity, solidarity and Arab unity etc... Today he bargains with the people's holy religion and Islamic Shari'a for sake of cheap, political gains, in an attempt to overcome his isolation and to misguide the masses in order to distract them from their basic cause.

Thereby, the Forces and Parties of Sudanese People's Grouping call upon the masses of workers, farmers, employees, students, merchants, soldiers and officers to hold fast to their basic cause in restoration of democracy and decent living and keep the vigilance to confront what is looming in the dark and to consolidate the struggle on the way to public civil commotion and popular uprising to eradicate the dictatorial authoritarian regime and to establish an independent democratic substitute.

Mohamad Abd El-Jawad Ahmed,
Head of Political and Information Bureau.

UNIONIST DEMOCRATIC PARTY,
Secretary General of:

THE SUDANESE PEOPLE'S GROUPING
Flat No 1

78 Campden Hill Road,
LONDON W8 A77

Tel: 937 9143 - 229 7407

Khartoum, September 1983

OVERSEAS NEWS

9

Report of shot at Andropov ridiculed

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Western reports that Mr Yuri Brezhnev, son of the late President Brezhnev, had shot and wounded President Andropov were greeted here yesterday with derision and disbelief by Soviet officials. Western diplomats and long-serving Kremlin watchers.

A spokeswoman at the Ministry of Foreign Trade, where Mr Brezhnev is First Deputy Minister, said that he was working as usual at his desk. Western European diplomats said that he had last week received foreign visitors and had been "usual amiable and competent".

The *Daily Express* reported in London yesterday that Mr Brezhnev had shot Mr Andropov in the arm during a confrontation in the Kremlin. The report quoted "KGB sources in Moscow", although the *Daily Express* does not have a correspondent in the Soviet Union.

"What an extraordinary idea" one of *The Times* own informed official sources said in amusement and amusement. "Absolute nonsense. And you can quote me on that".

Mr Andropov's prolonged absence from public view - he has not been seen since mid-August - has given rise to numerous rumours. Some more reliable than others. He is reported to have undergone a kidney operation.

Because of the lack of information from the Kremlin, rumours proliferate.

What is true is that some of the Brezhnev family have

suffered loss of prestige and privilege under the Andropov regime. The late President's daughter, Galina was closely connected with a series of corruption scandals which typified the decay of the last Brezhnev years and were ruthlessly investigated by Mr Andropov when he was head of the KGB. After Mr Andropov came to power she and her husband, Lieutenant-General Yuri Churbanov, were exiled from Moscow to Marmarinsk.

The *Times* has learned that Mrs Churbanov recently approached Mr Andropov and asked for permission to return to Moscow. Mr Andropov is reported to have refused but assured her that the Brezhnev family would not be victimized, and that privileges such as access to dachas (country homes), official cars and special shops would not be affected.

Sources said the fact that Mr Yuri Brezhnev - who has been Deputy Foreign Trade Minister since 1976 - was still in office supported this, although his long-term future was in doubt.

The fact that President Brezhnev's memory is still honoured was demonstrated a week ago when an article praising him as an "outstanding figure of the Communist Party and Soviet state" appeared in *Pravda*.

How to deal with the Brezhnev legacy of economic and administrative stagnation, on the other hand, is still one of the main problems faced by the ailing President Andropov.

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THE ARTS

Cinema

Truffaut's light-headed charm and style

Finally, Sunday (PG)
Chelsea Cinema

The Divine Emma (PG)
Classics Chelsea,
Tottenham Court Road

Cujo (18)
Leicester Square Theatre

London Film Festival
National Film Theatre

François Truffaut (who was unhappily recently stricken by a severe illness resulting from a burst blood-vessel) has the lightest touch among the generation of the Nouvelle Vague, and this has often made him an object of suspicion among those more austere critics who feel that art is not art without a degree of pain. Public appreciation has gone with critical frowns often enough to confirm Truffaut's conviction that simply to amuse and delight is a sufficient object in itself. Accepted for what it is, an entertainment and confession of fluff and nonsense, *Finally, Sunday* (*Vivement Dimanche*) is as amiably engaging as the old detective thriller it parodies.

It is based on an American thriller of 1962, Charles Williams's *Confidentially Yours*, translated from Florida to the Côte d'Azur and with a sense of Gallic

force overtaking the sardonic American humour. The story also provides a homage to Truffaut's lifelong hero Alfred Hitchcock: the theme of a man on the run hunted for a crime he did not commit, abetted by a young woman with whom, initially at least, relations are a trifle strained, was fairly constant in Hitchcock's best thrillers. Truffaut works a switch on Hitchcock, though: here the brunette is the heroine, and the blonde clear-eyed blonde, Madeleine Carroll style, becomes both villainess and victim.

Truffaut's hero is a rather hangdog estate agent (Jean-Louis Trintignant) whose best friend and faithful wife are the first to succumb in a chain of murders whose circumstances all point to his guilt. His bright secretary whom he has just sacked, takes the affair in hand, hides him in the cellar of his own office and starts an independent investigation. Thereafter it is a farago of disguises, secret passages, improbable coincidences, crooked lawyers and other colourful folk, fast-talking and slow-thinking cops, vice rings and brothels (fronted by a movie theatre showing *Paths of Glory*: the cinema motif is rarely absent from Truffaut's films).

It is the stuff of the pulp novels which Truffaut loves, and Fanny Ardant plays the heroine like a schoolgirl detective. She is smart, wisecracking and beautifully innocent (when a raincoated man murmurs "Combiné?" as she loiters in a red-light street, she helpfully checks her watch and tells him the time). She spends a good part of her sleuthing time wearing an absurd principal-boy outfit in which

she has come from a rehearsal of *Les Misérables*. Light-headed the film may be, but it is genuinely light-hearted too, and done with charm and style.

As film craft the main merit of Jiri Krejčík's *The Divine Emma* is the cinematography of Miroslav Ondříček, reflecting the surfaces of a past world and changing seasons. The film has its interest though in recalling the career of the Czech-born operatic star Emmy Destinn. Even the inadequate recordings from the decade before the First World War, when she sang annually at Covent Garden and enjoyed huge popularity in the United States, show how exceptional was Destinn's voice, and contemporary descriptions of her appearances in Mozart and Wagner, in *Aida* and *Madame Butterfly* and *The Girl of the Golden West*, indicate a remarkable dramatic range. In the film she is played by Božidara Turzonovaová, but the singing voice is supplied by Gabriela Benacková, who has sometimes been rated Destinn's natural successor.

The film is mostly concerned with Destinn's equally remarkable offstage life. Already at 19 her career in Dresden was cut short as a result of her involvement with the Czech nationalist movement. During the First World War (this is the period on which the film concentrates) she was interned by the Austrian authorities, and her personal problems were gravely affected by her later professional career. The script largely fictionalizes events (her relationship with the French singer Gilly, who was interned at the same time, is ignored in favour of a concocted spy story); but it at least

suggests the complexity of the personality. Destinn's implications, as a nationalist heroine, for present-day, Warsaw-pact Czechoslovakia are also intriguing.

Cujo, adapted from a novel by Stephen King and directed by Lewis Teague, has upon a peculiarly repellent idea for a horror story: a woman and a small child are terrorized by a rabid St Bernard dog, which besieges them in their car in a remote location whose few inhabitants the wretched animal has already savaged to death. It is a queer aspect of contemporary Hollywood exploitation films that audiences apparently actually want to sit through such unrelieved and purposeless recitals of disturbing and disagreeable incidents. The frothy inconsequence of *Finally, Sunday* seems considerably more desirable.

The Truffaut film opened the London Film Festival. Further recommendations for programmes that at midweek were still not sold out might include, if for their rarity alone, the Chinese films *Legend of Tianyun Mountain* and *My Memories of Old Beijing* and *Rickshaw Boy* (all historical subjects) and *Neighbours*, an unvarnished picture of contemporary urban living; or a Soviet film, Karen Shakhnazarov's *Jazz Men*, for its oddity and one sharp gag (the pioneer Soviet jazz artists, having for years been pilloried as westernized and decadent are finally accepted only when they are very old men).

Again I must commend the British shorts, for which the festival brochure has only space for footnotes.

David Robinson



Beautifully innocent: Fanny Ardant with Jean-Louis Trintignant in *Finally, Sunday*

Television

Perfect match

Individually they would be unbearable but together they are perfect, one of those double acts which, since the days of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, have been used as an emblem for childhood and early adolescence.

But adolescence really only appeals to those who have forgotten how painful it is, and the world of *Johnny Jarvis* is one of council flats, job centres and horrible cafes where the tea tastes of the person who has served it. The general mood is one of urban desolation: it is a familiar one in contemporary drama, where moral outrage over the "state" of society runs ahead of any ability to express it convincingly.

The writer of this series, Nigel Williams, is too dexterous to fall into the conventional traps, however, and some of his

observations are very shrewd — he made an interesting connection last night between skinhead fashion and organized crime. But there are occasions when the weight of received truth is too great even for him to bear; he seemed rather overawed by it in his portrayal of London Blacks, for example, who reverted to stereotype at every opportunity.

In fact Jarvis and Lipton seem a little out of place amongst this urban squalor; and, since they have been joined by a cheerful punk girl (excellently played by Johanna Hargreaves) in order to go on the trail of some villainy, they really resemble a truncated version of the Famous Five. These three are the most imaginatively convincing characters — certainly they are the ones with whom Mr Williams seems most at ease — but they combine uneasily with the more modish aspects of the plot. At the moment we have a panorama of London life which threatens to become amorphous: perhaps the next four episodes will resolve the problems.

Peter Ackroyd

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THE ARTS

Opera

An action that cuts deep

The Rape of Lucretia

Of all Britten's operas, *The Rape of Lucretia* offers the most severe obstacles to success — and I have not forgotten *Albert Herring*.

One can cast the blame on Ronald Duncan's libretto, with its exquisite treflections and all its verbal preciousness, but this is the text that Britten helped to shape and chose to set. Its fanciful language is not a cause of the opera's awkwardness, but rather a symptom of a larger flight from reality.

How wonderful the world might be, composer and poet appear to be saying, if the opera house could be a place for moral intricacy and chamber music. But both Britten and Duncan were sufficiently experienced to know the futility of such an enterprise, and in spirit they watch over the theatre's rape of their intimate opera as surely as the two Chorus figures watch over the heroine's tragic destiny. *The Rape of Lucretia* is an opera that goes gently and beautifully to its doom.

If it cannot be prevented from doing so, it can at least be saved from its pretentiousness, as it now is in the English National Opera's new production.

Stewart Bedford, who directs the score from the piano as he did in the last days of the English Opera Group a dozen years ago, has come to a more forthright projection of the music, discovering much oddity of phrase, many places where Britten is pulling away from his librettist's sweet tragedy, as well as the many others where he lends support and encouragement.

Graham Vick's staging is still more immediate. The opera is being presented on the wooden platform used for the recent new *Ariadne on Naxos*, also designed by Russell Craig, but the setting is now even more austere. There is only an apparatus of scaffolding, from the top of which the Male and Female Chorus observe, sliding large white panels to open and close the parable. Costumes are nondescript. Furniture and properties are reduced to the barest minimum: elementary spinning equipment, a bed and a candle, a basket of flowers. The groupings, too, are simple, and sometimes seen in striking silhouette on the panels, thanks to the satire of Matthew Richardson's lighting.

Attention is thus forced, by the lighting as by the production, on the few people on stage, and when action comes it cuts deep. The rape is brutally realized; Lucretia at her first

appearance afterwards is scarred raw, and the great chaconne begins with her stock still, watched by the others frozen with backs turned as the lament of the — or — anguished becomes the only matter of interest. This is distinguished opera production which knows when to do absolutely nothing.

The casting is also excellent. Jean Rigby is not an outraged queen but more intensely and movingly a wronged woman: the part has much for her strong, rounded bottom register, and much too for her ringing thrusts. Russell Smythe makes a Tarquinius of toughness and urgency, whereas Richard Van Allan's Collatinus is all acceptance and quiet pessimism. A maternal Ann-Marie Owens and prettily agile Cathryn Pope are magnificent as Lucretia's attendants, and something positive is made of the aggrieved Junius by Robert Dean.

In this production the choric couple are poeticizing interpreters of a savagely simple story, and we are lucky to have in these roles such fine, exact and sensitive enunciations of Britten's music as Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Kathryn Harries. Not only do they tell us how to hear the work, they make us desperately want to believe in its importance.

Paul Griffiths



Urgently moving: Jean Rigby and Russell Smythe

Theatre

Warmly anti-racist

Outlaw Arts

Towards the end of Michael Abbensetts's play, a woman journalist takes a despairing look at a collection of dreadful paintings adorning the walls of a black cultural centre and observes that people talk about black art so as to avoid saying whether it is any good or not. "Nobody talks about 'white art'."

That is a bold statement to appear in the midst of the Arts' Black Theatre Season, and it is thoroughly in key with the rest of this warmly anti-racist piece. Through the adventures of his Jamaican hero, Omar, Mr Abbensetts conducts a rapid trip through the ethnic underworld of the past 20 years before finally slamming the ghetto door.

Starting as a petty crook, Omar joins forces with a Rastafarian landlord before boarding the black-power bandwagon and turning his talents for extortion to extracting subscriptions for his separatist movement, Action for Racist Strength in England (ARSE), from which it is a short step to founding the cultural centre where he experiences a change of heart and admits whites as well.

It is nice to be offered the hand of friendship; but Mr Abbensetts manages the gesture only at the expense of repeatedly letting his plot and characters off the hook. He seems too kind a writer to insist on the consequences of greed and hatred, or (apart from a National Front scene) to show anything ugly happening.

The landlord is an old Polish character, so he gets off scot free when the property boom collapses. Omar is a hard man, but his ego melts like butter when the author requires it.

The salvation of the piece is in its agile plotting (a theft, a recovery, and love at first sight all in the opening two-minute scene), and its unforced fun which defuses any sense of missionary intensity. Nobody, Omar complains, is visiting his library, and 'I've had to go out and threaten people to get those books.'

Also, no ethnic allowances have to be made for Robert Gillespie's production, headed by Raul Newney's satirically arrogant Omar, and with powerfully comic support from Wolfe Morris, as the stum landlord, and Tony Hippolyte, a lanky, ebony-masked joker who teases the house into hysterics in a succession of sidekick roles.

Irving Wardle

Alceste

Queen Elizabeth Hall

With the Royal Opera's stage spectacle still in the mind's eye, and with Jessye Norman's new recorded *Alceste* fresh in the ears, Chelsea Opera Group dared on Wednesday night to present a concert performance of Gluck's opera, and it paid off.

Where Leslie Halsey succeeded was in finding that fertile balance between just, classical gravitas and vibrant inner momentum which is of the essence of this work. Moreover, he had two of its prime requirements: principals as strong as Phyllis Cunniff's Alceste and David Hillman's Admetus. They came with the assurance of having understudied Baker and Tear at Covent Garden: both, surprisingly, drew me deeper into their roles and into the heart of Gluck even on this small, bare platform.

Phyllis Cunniff has the voice, musicianship and dramatic focus for a near-complete Alceste, and that is rare: a brilliant, athletic middle register

that can drive her determination, then act as a springboard for the burning high notes of "Divinités du Styx" or support the mezza voce of her "tendresse extrême". Hillman's Admetus, too, despite awkward French, restored detail and stature to an unequal role: his "Alceste, aux nom des Dieux" marked the climax of a powerful, deeply musical evolution of character, and together the mounting tension of their dialogue was grippingly paced.

Even Act III's sluggish start was brightened by shrewd casting. The springing impetus of Henry Herford's generous Hercules gave a marvellous arguery of his triumphant C major turning of events; and, among the smaller parts, Fiona Clarke's stylish, anonymous soprano was, in its own way, more eloquent than either Stuart Harling's clumsy Prétre or Ian Comboy's Oracle. Only the chorus seriously let the side down. Gluck intended power to his people: they remained a dutiful English choir.

Hilary Finch

Concert

Hague PO/Vonk Festival Hall

This is becoming ridiculous. I have no objection to being confronted on occasions like Wednesday night's concert with the bust of Beethoven glowering from the Festival Hall stage (it helps to remind us that we are participating in the hallowed rituals of the Royal Philharmonic Society). But the latest arrival in the hall is a pair of massive slogans proclaiming GREATER LONDON COUNCIL, in letters which

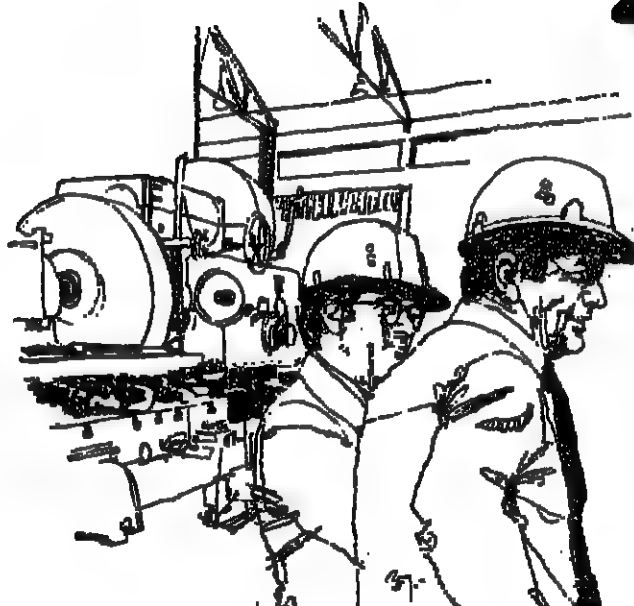
look a foot high, on both sides of the organ. Cannot politics be carried on by subtler means? Wednesday night's guests were the Hague Philharmonic, of Hert Residentia-Orkest as they are known at home, who brought an uncommonly civilized, serene reading of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony under their music director Hans Vonk. It was not a great or a thrilling account, for Vonk's inclination seems to be to draw out the humane warmth of Bruckner rather than his intensity. And his orchestra complements this approach: the strings are not as sunlit as their neighbours, the Concertgebouw, but they are well-moulded and firm in attack, and they share the inability to make unpleasant noises even at the very top of the violin range.

The brass includes a fine, sonorous tuba and smooth horns, the quartet of higher tubas in the Adagio posed some problems of intonation. Sometimes Vonk allowed the balance to go awry: when the second violins had the theme in the first movement, it was drowned by the agitated first violins, and crashing brass chords in the Scherzo covered up important material in the bass.

That Scherzo was so unaggressive that its falling seventh sounded almost Elgarian.

Nicholas Kenyon

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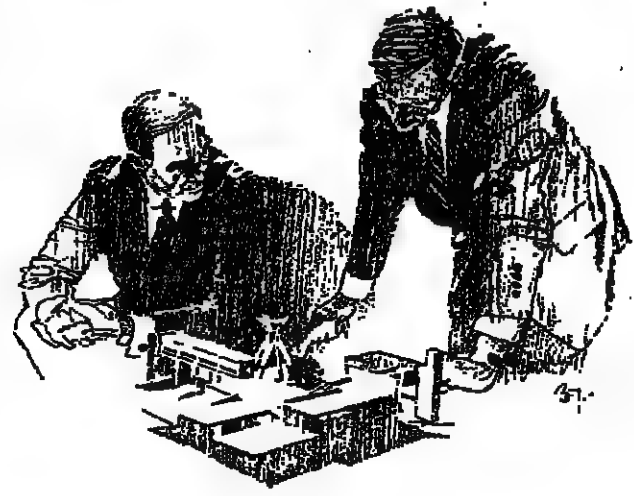
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SPECTRUM

The rise and fall of the Kennedy clan

The Americans invented their own royal family, writes Nicholas Ashford, and the Kennedys they chose looked likely to be immortal. But the bullets that cut down John F changed all that

In the absence of a royal family of their own the Americans have had to invent one, and the media - reflecting popular opinion - have opted for the Kennedys.

It is not hard to understand why. For a start, there are an awful lot of them. In best Catholic Irish tradition Joe, the former ambassador to London, and Rose, now aged 93, had nine children who between them produced 30 grandchildren (one of whom died at birth). So the press and professional Kennedy-watchers have a lot of material to work on.

The Kennedys also remain a united (but not monolithic) family. At a time when American families increasingly find themselves dispersed across the nation, many people derive comfort from the fact that a family is so much in the public eye and has suffered so much tragedy can remain so closely knit.

The gatherings of the "clan" at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port at Thanksgiving and other important occasions, and the family's emphasis on the virtues of hard work, public services and spiritual devotion, revive memories of the values brought to America by the early settlers who, like the Kennedys, rose from rags to riches.

And they are a pretty attractive bunch of individuals, too: certainly as photogenic (and much nicer) than the nation's other first families who are seen on the weekly television soap operas, *Dallas* and *Dynasty*. John F Kennedy Jr (JFK's son) has been described as "Byronic" while Maria Shriver (daughter of Eunice Kennedy) owed her original break into television - where she is now Hollywood correspondent for *PM Magazine* - as much to her looks as her name.

But the real reason for the American public's continuing fascination with the Kennedys and their elevation of them to near-royal status goes back 23 years to when John Fitzgerald Kennedy entered the White House. The election of JFK heralded a new era in American public life, provoking an aura of excitement even more intense than that which accompanied Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal.

The President's youth set off an eruption of interest in politics among the nation's previously politically apathetic young. People of talent flocked to join the Kennedy crusade against poverty and in support of civil rights believing, like Kennedy himself,

that America could be both prosperous and compassionate.

The style of life in the White House also changed. The stuffiness of the Eisenhower years was replaced by a glittering succession of balls and dinners at which film stars, artists and musicians were often more in evidence than cabinet ministers or congressmen. And in his wife, Jackie, JFK had at his side a woman who was not only beautiful and intelligent but who also always looked good on television.

This was of course the age when television came into its own. JFK's awareness of the power of television was partly responsible for his victory over the untelegenic Richard Nixon. The Kennedy mystique owes much to the way he played out his presidency before the television cameras. The same cameras were present to capture the awful drama of his assassination.

JFK's death after only 1,000 days in office left the nation with the sense of a mission unfulfilled, a task which still had to be completed. Many looked to his brother Robert, rather than to JFK's successor, President Johnson, to take over his mantle. Yet less than five years later Robert was also dead, another victim of an assassin's bullet.

The burden of Kennedy patriarchy and presidential standard-bearer then fell on the broad but inexperienced shoulders of Edward. At the age of 36, he suddenly found himself catapulted into a position of prominence for which he was totally unprepared, when he inherited one of the two Massachusetts senatorial seats once occupied by JFK.

A year later came Chappaquiddick. Many Americans believed that the Kennedy family's political ambitions had drowned with Mary Jo Kopechne. All the old stories came flooding back: how he had cheated on his Spanish examination and had been kicked out of Harvard as a result, how he had been caught speeding at law school and had hidden beneath the dashboard to try to escape notice. It was said that he had panicked in a crisis, that he could not face up to responsibility, that he lied. The scrutiny was relentless and the "character issue" which has dogged Senator Kennedy ever since was born.

Despite this, however, the senator is still regarded as the man who may yet be destined to complete JFK's mission, and many liberals believe he could still win the presidency in 1988 or 1992.

This fascination with JFK and the legacy of Camelot has reached a climax with the twentieth anniversary of his assassination. Newspapers and television have had a field day analysing and reappraising his achievements. Books have been written, memorials erected, teach-ins organized and stamps issued to commemorate the man and his death.

Two new books in particular underline the extent to which the Kennedys have been elevated to near-royal status. One, entitled *Growing Up Kennedy: The Third Generation Comes of Age*, contains chapter headings such as "John - Prince Dismalring" or "Reluctant Princess Caroline". The other, *Kennedy: The New Generation*



The days of wine and roses: Inside the President's office in the White House in February, 1962, when the stuffiness of the Eisenhower years was replaced by the Kennedy glitter

is a pictorial account of the Kennedy family similar to many glossy volumes which have been published about British royals.

But the book also emphasizes an important difference. "The royals lived a prescribed life in an exclusive theatrical touring company, with their roles defined and their lives written for them. The Kennedys are responsible for themselves. Much, perhaps too much, is expected of them."

Furthermore, the Kennedys, being a political family, are not immune from criticism and public opprobrium which British royals are generally spared. A recent example was when Kara, Senator Kennedy's 23-year-old daughter, was accused by a Kennedy hater who reminded her that her father had "killed a young girl about your age".

Growing up a Kennedy can be a burden as well as an enviable privilege.

"You have to take the good with bad" remarked Robert Kennedy Jr recently, noting that the third generation of Kennedys had had their share of the bad.

In his own case, for example, after a much-publicized failure to pass the New York state bar exam, he resigned as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan last summer and was later arrested on his way to South Dakota after "controlled substances" were found in his luggage. He was sent for treatment for an unspecified drug problem.

His younger brother David made headlines four years ago when he was robbed in a Harlem hotel known to be frequented by heroin users.

He later entered a drug rehabilitation programme. A few weeks ago Robert Shriver, Eunice's eldest boy, was fined \$250 and placed on six months' probation

Jackie bathing in the sea at Ravello in August, 1962. Kennedyophiles never forgave her for "abandoning" the clan and marrying a foreigner

for scalping tickets at a Baltimore versus Chicago baseball game.

Kennedy wives have also had their share of unfavourable publicity. Many Kennedyophiles never forgave Jackie for "abandoning" the clan and marrying a foreigner who had 42 telephones on his yacht and solid gold taps in the bathrooms. Mrs Onassis, now an editor with Doubleday in New York, leads as private a life as possible and only participates in occasional clan activities when her two children are involved.

Joan's alcoholism, which was largely responsible for her separation from Senator Kennedy, also attracted close scrutiny. Although she has successfully undergone therapy to overcome her drinking problem and has succeeded in reestablishing a close relationship with her children, her own self-esteem has been severely undermined by the way in which her personal problems were publicly recorded.

Other young Kennedys are quietly contributing to the clan mystique. Probably the two most outstanding are Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Joe Kennedy II, the oldest children of Robert and Ethel Kennedy. Last year Kathleen, aged 32, an outspoken liberal and feminist, brilliantly managed Senator Edward Kennedy's re-election campaign which he won by a landslide. Political observers contrasted the effectiveness of that campaign, in which the senator emerged out of the shadow of his dead brothers as a political figure in his own right, with the senator's disastrous performance in 1980. It was expected Kathleen would have played a key role in next year's presidential race if Senator Kennedy had not decided to withdraw.

Joe II has been active in public service. He set up a non-profit company in Boston, the Citizens Energy Corporation, which in the past four years has provided 21 million gallons of cut-price heating oil to low-income families.

So far none of the 29 third generation Kennedys has shown any signs of following John, Robert or Edward into politics. In 1961 JFK declared: "... the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans..." But none of the new generation of Kennedys seems willing to take up the torch, which is now carried single-handedly by the senator from Massachusetts.

Jennifer Selway on the British TV view of a US legend

A Limey at the court of a president

A seven-hour television mini-series called *Kennedy*, starring Martin Sheen in the title role with E. G. Marshall, Geraldine Fitzgerald and John Shea, sounds like a most American undertaking. It is being transmitted coast-to-coast by NBC, in Britain by ITV and in a handful of other countries, from Sunday evening, coinciding with the twentieth anniversary of the President's assassination, and riding high on a media wave of eulogy, elegy and scant revisionism. But, unexpectedly, *Kennedy* is a British production by Central Television, produced by Andrew Brown (of *Rock Follies* and *Edward and Mrs Simpson*), written and conceived by Reg Gadeny (most recently responsible for a dramatization of Iris Murdoch's *The Bell*).

"It's as though the Belgians had decided to make the definitive film about Churchill," Gadeny suggests, attempting to illustrate the initial hostility with which the American press met the British crew during their five months' location filming up and down the eastern seaboard.

"I've had a fairly odd reception on this side of the Atlantic, too," he says. "The extraordinary thing about television is it's supposed to be the great force for internationalism, but nothing could be more ferociously nationalistic than each country's television. The British are the worst. It's the same with writing for film and theatre. Look at the obsession with the rise or fall of the British film industry. You don't get this sort of jingoism in new painting or sculpture."

Gadeny is also by way of being an art historian, and has taught at the Royal College of Art for close on 15 years. He has had a long-term interest in things American, and after



Martin Sheen (right) as Kennedy being sworn in as President in the television series

Cambridge went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1966 as a research fellow studying architecture. It was at this time (to his subsequent deep regret) that he declined an invitation to spend a weekend at the Kennedys' Hyannis Port enclave, extended by a Harvard colleague and Kennedy scholar. For the purposes of writing the TV series, both he and the production team made a conscious decision not to seek out the Kennedys for information or approval, in the belief that they would have forced the family to adopt a position about the series, and compromised the programme makers. Over a period of two years, Gadeny did all his own research. Most of the material came from published sources and from interviews. Alone (and this time uninvited) he strolled round Hyannis Port and joined a conducted tour of the White House. He says he had an open mind about his subject, but was never approached by any Deep Throats offering to tell him the "real story" about some aspect of Kennedy's career.

The film ends abruptly a vivid reconstruction of the shooting in Dallas, so there is no attempt to explore the fantastic theories still circulating about Kennedy's death. If one was to ask the man on the Clapham (or Georgetown) omnibus to jot down key movements in the Kennedy administration, they would be the same as appear in the TV series - the closely-run election, the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the civil rights movement, the Cuban missile crisis and so on, and there are little anecdotal footnotes about Jackie's serenely obstinate extravagance, the death of their baby son, JFK's well-disguised spinal trouble and so on.

Viewers anticipating shocking revelations about the Kennedys may well be disappointed. The President's philandering takes place off-stage, and at unspecified times, though it is shown to have been compulsively monitored by J. Edgar Hoover (played by Vincent Gardenia as a kind of pantomime villain), who makes the magisterial pronouncement: "The Kennedy weakness is sex... we have a President that is morally diseased."

All this kind of business in the script was carefully studied by many teams of eagle-eyed lawyers - from NBC, their insurance lawyers, from Central and from Central's American

production company. To avoid copyright restrictions, all factual material had to have been quoted by at least two sources. It is a million miles from the mischievous air of a series like *Washington Behind Closed Doors*.

And yet for all its scrupulous research *Kennedy*, Gadeny insists, is still a "work of the imagination" an historical play that attempts to catch the spirit of an era, of an extraordinary political family and of a presidency.

"My assessment of Kennedy may not be particularly original or exciting, but the fact is that he was one of the last statesmen to talk about the future. Ironically, as a young man, he had a stake in it. Today, politicians have given up on the future. They just talk about problems. He was, I believe, a genuine idealist, who excited a whole generation."

It is this much-cited "vigour" that Gadeny tries to get across, a mood he believes could never be achieved in a blow-by-blow drama-documentary where "either the drama is a bit duff or the documentary is sloppy". He has also avoided a temptation to play amateur psychiatrist, to pinpoint what made Kennedy tick. In his performance, Martin Sheen builds on this. By making his Kennedy both charming, frightening and unpredictable he warns us off, convinces us that the man inside is out of bounds.

Gadeny concludes: "There was a blandness in Kennedy. There was either a great gap in his mind, so that he wasn't in touch with himself, or else there wasn't very much to be in touch with. He was like a cardboard box, very adept at filling himself with people and ideas and motion. But I think he was a curiously empty man."

moreover... Miles Kington

The Booker Nouveau bandwagon

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Starting in Paris, a provincial town in the middle of France, contestants will first of all have to sell a dozen copies of one of their novels, then race as fast as possible to London and rendezvous at the magnificent new A1 (M) Conference Centre, the Chicken Bar. There, in the James Goldsmith Ballroom, they will have to explain the plot of their novel in less than 30 seconds and say what they would do with the money if they won the prize. At the climax of the ceremony, some lucky little lady will be crowned Miss Booker Nouveau 1984 and be off on a madcap whirlwind year of opening new branch libraries and appearing on Channel 4 in her own show!

The prize ceremony will rival all known celebrations of the literary art.

Bernard Levin will be there to say why he likes books so much.

Richard Attenborough will be on hand, so you can be photographed with him and his Oscar.

Cabaret will be provided by Fay Weldon and the Weldonettes.

Your chef for the evening will be Indian expert Salman Rushdie, hot tip for the 1984 Nobel cookery prize.

Bernard Levin will tell you why he likes food so much.

Bobby Robson will be on hand to offer excuses for the losers.

And a squad of feminist agitators will move among the diners pelting them with rolls and chicken bones!

The judges will include Lionel Blair, Simone de Beauvoir, Selma Scott, Iris Murdoch, Henry Cooper and that all-purpose personality Sir Kelly (Monty Python). "I think it's going to be a great evening," says Monty. "This is the sort of thing which will give that sort of thing a much-needed shot in the arm. This is what shot in the arm is all about. Anything that puts books on the map is fine by me. I shall be there. Count on me. I am not afraid. What's the food going to be like? Can I sit next to Selma? Do I really have to come?"

With interest like this already building up, it is not hard to see why the British Book-Flogging Board, inspired behind the Ten Greatest British Pocket Diaries for 1984, has already decided to stump up £50,000 to help to support the evening. The BBC will be broadcasting the evening live, unless it has suspended all its stuff by then, and Ladbroke's have announced they will run a book on Britain's fastest, sexiest novelist. There will be a lot of money floating round in the picture, and if I know my readers, they will want to get their sticky little hands on some of it.

To enable them to do this, the Miss Booker Nouveau prize will be going public shortly before the day itself. If you wish to become a shareholder, simply send me £100 in old notes, with a signed disclaimer saying: "I am sure you know what to do with this money. Please do not send me a Booker Prize novel".

If we all play our cards right, I can give up writing this column and you can all retire from full-time newspaper readership. But hurry, hurry with that money.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 205)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Bumper cars (7)	1 Pile of rubbish (4)
5 Blackboard support (5)	2 Scottish cellar (5)
8 Bewitch (3)	3 Middlemen (13)
9 Senior pupil (7)	4 Catapult (2)
10 Sky (5)	5 Lavish dinner (13)
11 Computer sequence (4)	6 Japanese warrior (7)
12 Plan (7)	7 Blockage (8)
14 Hostile meeting	13 Detestable (8)
16 Not masculine (7)	15 Wandering (7)
18 Apostles' deeds (4)	17 Jubilee sleepily (5)
21 Hindu holy man (5)	19 Musical adjuster (5)
22 Shrivelled (7)	20 Same (4)
23 Sprint (3)	
24 Amphibious vehicles (5)	
25 Egyptian instrument (7)	

SOLUTION TO No 204
ACROSS: 1 Trid 12 Sd 13 Anka 14 Bonny
15 Adroit 16 Base 17 Cuckoo 18 Cock 21 Isoler 22 Ironie
24 USN 25 Emblem 26 Easter
DOWN: 2 Rotor 3 Fraternal 4 Dynasty 5 Quasi
6 Err 7 Shriker 15 Autocross 15 Opossum
16 Uterine 18 Scrut 20 Chise 22 Bel

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



- Shooting: Fair game for birds
- Travel: For Ever England - part II on the settlers in the Spanish sun
- Values: No present like the time - a guide to clocks and watches to buy for Christmas

- Drink: The pick of Beaujolais nouveau 1983
- Aux Armes: The battle for France's premier literary prize
- Sport: Rugby Union - England v The All Blacks at Twickenham; football - first round of the FA Cup

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FRIDAY PAGE

Helen Mason meets an unusual theatre group 'Does anyone here speak spastic?'

The Graeae, as anyone knows who studied Greek or possessed a copy of *The Heroes* by Charles Kingsley, were three disagreeable old ladies, who possessed only one eye and one tooth, which they shared. Members of the Graeae (pronounced Gray Eye) Theatre are rather better endowed than their namesakes, but all the actors are disabled.

Their best known production, featuring their best known and most charismatic star, founder member Nabil Shaban, was *Sideshow*. Using acid and uncomfortable humour, they confronted society with its attitudes and, like Irishmen telling Irish jokes, put the unspeakable into words. The best known line from *Sideshow* is the call for an interpreter. "Does anyone here speak spastic?"

Audiences expecting that kind of thing from their current production at the Riverside Studios Hammer-smith, *Not Much to Ask*, will be puzzled. In my view, audiences will be puzzled anyway. I think it is a puzzling play, based on *Villette* by Charlotte Brontë but juggling times and identities and casting severe doubt, in Day-Glo sequences to disco beat, on the value of institutional care. But it is a proper play for proper actors.

One of the most dramatic and powerful moments is supplied by 20-year-old Richard Gilling, in one of the day-centre sequences, all noise and unearthing clatter, unwanted library books from trollies and chants like "Don't expect too much - only simple things - make allowances - they think you're stupid if you can't speak". Richard faces the audience and, forcing words out with passion, cries: "But I am not stupid".

The Graeae bitterly resents reviews that attach labels to performers, but it is impossible to describe the impact of that moment without referring to the fact that Richard Gilling does have difficulty in speaking.

The Graeae is not a repertory company and casts for each production. It also pays equity rates. This makes funding a constant problem - a problem compounded by the number of tours it takes on - one is about to begin in India and will, for the first time, have a tour manager.

Drama from a wheelchair
Graeae is also to have an artistic director, Caroline Noh, and that development is an important change in a company which has been run as a collective.

That the company is still going, and growing, and changing is something of a miracle. And if one of the two wheelchairs gliding across the doll-sized stage had not been draped in a crinoline in *Not Much to Ask*, I for one, could easily have forgotten it was there at all.

Helen Mason
The Graeae will be at the Riverside until Sunday, then the York Arts Centre, November 22-26, the West End Centre Aldwych, December 9 and the IM Marshalls of PE, Liverpool, December 12-17.

South African writers exercise a peculiar fascination in Europe and America, but also manage to make their readers from beneath the surface less easy to digest than reflex political slogans. As the greatest of them all reaches 60 on Sunday, it is the right moment to retrace a career which itself has reached a stage of anxious self-examination.

Nadine Gordimer has recently been devoting time to looking both forward and backward across the four decades which her writing has covered - thoughts gathered up and poured in New York a year ago entitled *Living in the Interregnum*. Other writers who have enjoyed the marks of distinction which the critical fraternity have showered on her might take stock with some sense of satisfaction at the age of 60. Gordimer's world is not so comfortable.

She remained, she told that audience, a writer and not a speaker; "nothing I say here will be as true as my fiction." She had never before spoken from so public a point of view, she said, and quoted from Gramsci to evoke the South Africa of the 1980s: "The old is dying, and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum there arises a great diversity of morbid symptoms."

She described her dilemma. "There are two absolutes in my life. One is that racism is evil - human damnation in the Old Testament sense - and no compromises, as well as sacrifices, should be too great in the fight against it. The other is that a writer is a being in whose sensibility is fused... the duality of inwardness and outside world, and he must never be asked to surrender this union. The co-existence of these absolutes often seem irreconcilable within one life, for me."

This conflict between the imperatives of politics and of art has been one of the most constant themes of the commentary with which she has accompanied her output of novels. The dilemma would not exist if she had chosen exile in Europe or the United States, home of her publishers and critical supporters. But she chooses only to make regular visits. When I met her in London earlier this year, she remarked on the psychological gulf separating us from her own country.

"You are so safe," she said, "it is impossible for you to imagine how we live in societies like ours. The dangers you envisage are so different from the real dangers. People often say to me: 'I don't know how you can face all that censorship and so forth.' But the real dangers are the ways people are watched from vantage points so close to themselves; the real dangers lie in the hidden places close to you."

Escape by the world of books
These tensions only reveal themselves slowly from underneath a surface of courtesy and quiet self-containment. She does not appear to enjoy interviews but, after precise and conscientious answers, uses the opportunity to articulate her concerns of the moment. Once it was the endless guerrilla warfare with the censors, now the difficulties facing emergent black writers.

Her Jewish Cockney grandparents went out to South Africa in the 1870s to prospect for diamonds. Her parents settled in the gold mining town of Springs, not far from Johannesburg on the East Rand. There were three rigidly separated populations: English speakers (in Springs many were Scots), Afrikaners and Africans.

The world disclosed by books revealed the possibility of escape. "It sounds so preposterous, but I couldn't find mental food there. There was a hunger in me. Gossip and family discussions were all about daily life. It was interesting but the books I read showed me that there were other things."

She saw her first piece of work published in 1939, went briefly to university and spent most of her time with other young Johannesburg writers. A small and far-sighted periodical published her and the

A lifetime of mining for the truth



Nadine Gordimer: "You are so safe. It is impossible for you to imagine how we live in societies like ours"

equally little-known Doris Lessing in the same year. She was briefly married. It was the gentle, exploratory and discursive world of her first novel, *The Lying Days*. It was not a politically conscious one.

The time was nevertheless a watershed. After the Nationalist election victory in 1948 the balance of power between Afrikaners and English-speakers swung decisively in the Afrikaners' favour. Apartheid was consolidated on the statute book. The young writers debated the question of why there was no recognizable body of South African literature. Into this enclosed society came an unheard-of intrusion: a telephone call from America. A short story had been taken by *The New Yorker*; collections were soon brought out by publishers in New York and London.

It was the beginning of a steady stream, a volume of short stories usually alternating with a novel. *Friday's Footprint* won the W H Smith award in 1961; *A Guest of Honour* the James Tait Black in 1972; *The Conservationist* shared her the Grand Aigle d'Or in the following year. Rumour holds that she has twice been on Nobel short list. One of those occasions would almost certainly have been for her towering achievement (and own favourite), *Burger's Daughter*, published in 1979.

Her preoccupations became gradually more political, or as she put it: "the importance of the context of our life took hold of me". This slow change, the growing attention paid to the conflict between public and private responsibilities, did not become stories of great public events but a sustained inquiry into the human psychology of the society that was around her. "In a certain sense," she wrote recently, "a writer is 'selected' by his

subject - his subject being the consciousness of his own era. How he deals with this is, to me, the fundamental of commitment, although commitment is usually understood as the reverse process: a writer's selection of a subject in conformity with the rationalization of his own ideological and/or political beliefs."

She made one near-miss attempt to leave this behind. After Sharpeville she and her second husband (who had himself fled Nazi Germany) toyed with the idea of moving to Zambia. "We had the feeling that one could not go on living decently as a white. Either you had to be a revolutionary and have long stretches in prison or you had to leave."

"Zambia had become independent in '64 and we went several times thinking seriously about living there. Then I realized something which pricked an illusion I had held. I had thought that as a white African I could go and live anywhere - that I would be accepted as such if one was committed, as we were to black majority rule. I found that I was just another European. As far as people were concerned, I could have arrived in Africa the day before."

"It was untrue that we would be accepted. And I found that whatever happens at home, whatever feelings arise, in a strange way one is accepted as a white African. It's the only real identity I have."

She made first use of this theme in *A Guest of Honour*, the unhappy chronicle of a liberal ex-colonial civil servant invited back to the new independent country in which he had once lived. But it is also central to *Burger's Daughter*, which follows the daughter of an imprisoned white communist as she attempts to create her own life away from the rigid orthodoxies of family Statism.

She moves to southern France (where Gordimer's daughter now

lives) and briefly to London but finally chooses to return to South Africa where she faces the certain prospect that her past associations will send her to prison. Rosa Burger wanders between the pursuit of private fulfilment and the meeting of obligations to other people. Gordimer is at her best on the border between private emotions and external forces; the two are interwoven by characters who mix good and bad and black and white.

Such shading may sound unexceptional, but she is writing in exceptional circumstances. The novel was banned when it first appeared. "The author uses Rosa's story as a pad," wrote Mr E G Malan of the Directorate of Publications, "from which to launch a blistering and full-scale attack on the Republic of South Africa: its government's racial policies; white privilege; social and political structure; processes of law and prisons; forces for the preservation of law and order; black housing and education; the pass laws etc. The whites are baddies, the blacks the goodies." Held up to widespread ridicule, the ban on the book was finally overturned.

But it is not only inside white supremacy that human frailty and subtlety are unhelpful. She is criticized by some black writers - whose writings are not usually "unbanned" after protests and who do not usually receive reviews in *The New York Times* - for even daring to write as if she knows what a black person can think and for creating black characters who are less than perfect heroes of the revolution.

Sometimes I feel useless

"You have to have a certain measure of trust before you can talk openly and freely about this," she said. "The moral ambiguities and individual cruelties in the individuals who are heroes have to be there or the writer is not a writer. They may not in the end affect the little kernel of truth in the case. This has to be argued constantly among black writers. They are in a pretty terrible position both ways. The censors are down on them but there is also increasing pressure to conform to the needs of the political struggle."

"It is difficult to convey how irrelevant and unimportant writing seems in the revolutionary situation, in South Africa."

"It's a little better than it was in the late 1970s. There was in effect an unwritten list of prescribed and proscribed subjects. It was OK to write a story about the student riots. It was OK to write a story about someone's mother hiding a man on the run from the police. It would not be OK to write of a Dostoyevskian situation in which there was a young black girl in the house where the man was 'hiding' and she was attracted to him. She is rejected and, in revenge, hands him over. Betrayals do happen. Life is not clear cut."

Where has the collision of politics and art left her? "I'm a writer. I don't think I'm brave enough to become a true revolutionary and spend my life in jail. I sometimes feel... I feel useless, yes. But I feel that in the end there are some things I can do. You try to tell the truth and to show people in all their moral confusion. If a writer does this, you get a clearer idea of what you are and how you are living."

She now describes herself as a "citizen of the interregnum", attempting to reconcile her observation and imagination with a readiness to be "answerable to the order struggling to be born". But running beneath her defiant statements combining these aims is an audible doubt that they can live together for much longer. The inescapable evidence of the novels stacks the odds against it.

Running beneath those defiant statements is the line from Turgenev which prefaces *A Guest of Honour*: "An honourable man will end by not knowing where to live."

George Brock

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Poor outlook for diabetics

Doctors and political commentators agree that their circumstantial evidence suggests that Yuri Andropov as been a diabetic for many years and has now developed end stage kidney failure, one of its most dreaded complications.

Few diabetics of his age have been treated with dialysis or a kidney transplant so that there are no reliable statistics available on which to give an accurate prognosis; but a study of 5,000 European patients, mostly very much younger people, has shown that a patient treated in this way has a 59 per cent of surviving the first year. The outlook for a man of Mr Andropov's age must be rather less promising particularly as it seems that he, like the majority of these patients, has cardiovascular trouble and is hypertensive, in 50 per cent of the cases the final cause of death is a coronary thrombosis.

Fortunately, most diabetics do not develop serious kidney complications, although careful post-mortem examination shows that in 65 per cent there is some renal involvement. When renal failure does occur, diabetes has always been present for at least 20 years.



A helping hand for Andropov

The Russian leader's treatment has drawn attention to the lack of provision made for similar care in Britain; without it the average life expectancy, after laboratory signs of impending renal failure have developed, is five years; or one year after the patient starts to show physical signs and symptoms.

Dr A J Wing of St Thomas's Hospital, told *The Times* that he was dismayed by Britain's present approach and contrasted it to the active treatment we provide to give a cancer sufferer an extra year or two. He explained that half the diabetic patients accepted for dialysis or transplant will live an extra two years, and a quarter will last at least five years. In 1981 500 diabetics presented with renal failure; only 80 were treated. "The rest," he said, "we merely buried."

Quick cure

It was, perhaps, reports of a new treatment for impotence with an alpha blocker, phentolamine, which prompted the middle aged Italian businessman and his wife to fly suddenly to London to seek advice about their long term problem.

Unfortunately, although the press reports did explain that the treatment, devised by Professor G S Brindley, of the Institute of Psychiatry, was by injection; they did not all explain that this had to be of the genitalia, and its effect started, regardless of circumstances, within about five minutes; a situation which if the remedy became popular might make Harley Street look like a scene from an old Whitehall Theatre farce.

In the best tradition Professor Brindley first experimented on himself; he has had 41 injections without, so far as he knows, any long term ill effects. It has now been tried on 15 patients, 12 of whom had had long periods of impotence. The wife of one of his patients has even started to wield the needle herself. As a standard method of treatment there are obvious medical dangers, as well as aesthetic objections, so that the professors' work is much more likely to be of research value rather than immediate clinical application.

The Italians, fortunately, did not need such drastic measures. The man who had no obvious circulatory hormonal or neurological problems was overjoyed to learn that his initial symptoms were not his alone, but common to all middle aged men. His attractive wife, who did not look as if she would be very handy with a syringe, learnt that women had to play an equally subtle, but rather more active role in love making in later life.

Before they left at the end of the week they were delighted that their holiday had been repeatedly consummated.

Seeing red

Pink eye, red eye, or in babies "a sticky eye", are lay terms usually thought to be synonymous with conjunctivitis; but not all inflamed red eyes are due to conjunctivitis and not all conjunctivitis is due to a simple cause such as playground dust, chlorine in the water, or the strain of a long drive.

Two medical magazines, *Mimms* and *The General Practitioner*, have both recently carried warnings about diagnosing conjunctivitis without ascertaining the underlying cause, or making certain that the patient is not suffering an inflamed eye due to more damaging eye trouble where a delay in the correct treatment may be disastrous.

The writers also warn against giving blunderbuss therapy in the form of drops containing broad spectrum antibiotics combined with powerful steroids. If the patient has herpes in the eye, which is not uncommon, the condition can be made dramatically worse by steroids. The same steroids if used for too long can cause an increase in eye pressure, glaucoma, which may become irreversible and hence involves a risk of blindness.

Laid low

One of the great characters of the racing scene who survived the Aintree jumps, a broken back and an adventurous war without ever losing his composure, was almost laid low this year by a small white pill, Celestaprin. Celestaprin, an often prescribed and useful drug, can cause oesophagitis, characterised by heartburn and sometimes chest pain radiation to the neck.

Following the medical briefing on the complications of a hiatus hernia, several readers have written to *The Times* describing similar symptoms after taking prescribed treatment. Their letters emphasize the point that not all oesophagitis is the result into a hernia, and that among the many other causes are the side effects of drugs.

Doctors are so used to the various types of indigestion caused by anti-arthritis drugs that its diagnosis presents few difficulties; but when the symptoms follow other treatment the connexion may not be so obvious. Antibiotics, particularly erythromycin and doxycycline (Vibramycin), some of the antidepressants, some beta blockers, and the barbiturates, are all among frequent offenders.

Dr Thomas Stuttford
Medical Correspondent

COMMENT

A right to learn

The education of children in the first year of their school life is regulated not by their ability or the resources available, but primarily by the wording of the 1944 Education Act. Because it states that compulsory education begins after a child attains the age of five, but the school year runs from September to August, the length of the child's education during the vital infant years of schooling may vary by as much as a year.

Most education authorities now admit children in the term in which they attain their fifth birthday - the so-called "rising fives". The children born between September 1 and December 31 enter school at the beginning of the school year. These first class citizens enjoy a teacher fresh from a long summer holiday, often a small teaching group and a head start. The second class citizens, born between January 1 and April 30, start school after Christmas but at least are backed by a capitation allowance for books and teaching resources.

However, the third class citizens born between May 1 and August 31 - the summer birthdays - may only start school after Easter if there is room for them in the reception class or mixed-age groups - no extra teacher or capitation allowance is provided as they are not counted on the January school census on which annual calculations are based.

Even if these third class citizens do manage to enter school after Easter, they face full classes, an established routine

and a confident, settled peer group who have benefited from up to eight months of education. The result may be problems which often persist beyond primary education.

In no other area of education is there discrimination on the grounds of age within a year-group. All children enter secondary school in one intake, as do students of universities etc. This year and last I have pressed to have my summer birthday children allowed into school at February half-term so that, at least, they would receive half a year's education.

Research undertaken by the National Children's Bureau has underlined the high number of summer children at risk or in require extra staff or resources and yet the county council has refused this request in spite of support from governors and parents. I know that many heads have been given the same answer and feel that they should be allowed to exercise their discretion. This can only be done by altering the law.

If the children born after Easter were not counted as existing in their first year at secondary school, college or university, there would be an outcry. Is it not time that we removed this injustice from those too young to speak for themselves?

Mary Gilbert

The author is head of a primary school in Saffron Walden, Essex.

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THE TIMES DIARY

If Bootle fits

As a result of recent newspaper allegations about his private life, there has been speculation about the political career of Allan Roberts, Labour MP for Bootle.

Should Roberts resign, there will be much SDP interest in his vacant seat, particularly by the party president, Shirley Williams. The recent boundary changes in Bootle took in 10,000 Crosby voters from the two wards in which the SDP have local councillors.

The SDP's newly appointed national secretary, Dick Newby, confirms that Mrs Williams "would be interested" in Bootle. "There are strong arguments why she should fight it, if it fits in with her other plans," he says.

A few notes

In the depression-torn 1930s, the unemployed entered dance marathons for the prize money - a phenomenon recorded in the grim film, *They Shoot Horses Don't They?* Phillips, the auctioneer, have brought the idea back up to date to fit these recessionary times. Next Wednesday, 40 unemployed pianists will be recruited to play a new work composed by Phillips piano specialist, Richard Reason. It is called "Work for Unemployed Pianists" and the pianos played will then be put into a Phillips sale. One of them is valued at £8,000. The out-of-work pianist chosen to play it will get a meagre £5.

Spoonfed

Andrew Lloyd Webber has acquired that air of complete helplessness that no megastar should be without. On holiday in Venice, and wishing to dine out, he was unsure about the procedure for booking a table. So he rang his secretary in London, who telephoned the Venetian restaurant of his choice.

No stand in

If Mrs Thatcher seemed well-rehearsed during the siege of the Iranian embassy in London in 1980, it may have been because she had had some practice in emergency behaviour. In his book *Delta Force*, Charles Beckwith, who led the abortive mission to rescue the American embassy hostages in Iran, records a conversation in 1979 with a visiting SAS officer who was observing an American emergency exercise. He criticized the Americans for using senior officers to play the parts of politicians. "You know, we play these games too," said the SAS man. "Just like you chaps, the military, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office all participate. But I must tell you, when we play, Maggie plays."

BARRY FANTONI



Tricked out

Inter Commodities, a firm of City brokers, are offering their "high roller" clients (that is millionaire risk-takers) the "convenience" of some advanced technology to lug around. Called "The Box of Tricks", it is an electronic data system that through telephone impulses prints out not only an analysis of a client's current commodity positions, but provides up-to-date market information anywhere in the world. The size of a portable typewriter, it has been predicted as indispensable baggage for tomorrow's travelling speculator.

Miss-nomer

Fam Hardymont, spokesperson for the nation's mistresses, first came out of the closet with an article in *The Times* last April saying that mistresses should come out of the closet. Since then he has appeared in a television documentary about mistresses and in several other newspapers. Bowing to ex-marital pressures she is now reverting to her maiden name of Arnold. Her former husband, Peter Hardymont, has been besieged by telephone calls about his relationship with Pam and asked her to change her name.

... est parti

Audiences at the previews of *Jean Seberg*, the National Theatre's accident-prone musical, are not enjoying the beautiful nouveau served in the theatre's bars and restaurants as much as they should. Each bottle is labelled with a picture of Jean Seberg, a few moments before the audience had seen die tragically on stage.

PHS

Easy divorce is no answer

By Hugh Montefiore

The greatest cause of unhappiness in our society today lies in family breakdown. With 170,000 divorce petitions annually, and more than half a million children under 16 affected by new divorces each year, this terrible social evil deserves far more attention than it is given.

The present government professes itself concerned about the family, and only last week the Lord Chief Justice declared it to be the most important ingredient of a stable society. Yet little is actually done to remedy the situation, even though the total cost to the country is about £1,000m a year, to say nothing of unquantifiable costs in human suffering.

In this field the law has only limited power. It cannot prevent people making foolish marriages, nor can it reconcile bitter and warring partners. But the law has an essential role. It must enable, with the maximum of dignity and the minimum of pain and recrimination, the legal dissolution of marriages which have become intolerable. It must give priority to the welfare of children who suffer from a situation not of their own making. It must ensure that financial relief in matrimonial proceedings is just and fair.

The newly published Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill attempts an improvement; it is my belief that it fails but those of us who criticize it are apt to be given short

shrift. Lord Hailsham, Lord Chancellor, in a recent television programme in which he was invited to comment on my criticisms, responded with the words: "Bishop Montefiore doesn't know much about it". London Weekend Television has refused me the opportunity to reply.

The main provision of this Bill is to place an absolute bar on petitions for divorce during the first year of marriage. As it now stands, the position is less clear-cut. A petition in England and Wales may be presented after the first three years, unless the case is one of exceptional depravity on the part of the respondent, or of exceptional hardship on the part of the petitioner. But what precisely do "exceptional depravity" or "exceptional hardship" mean?

Furthermore, if a speedy divorce is required, there is a tendency to "beef up" the circumstances surrounding the alleged irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, thus increasing bitterness and recrimination. The present law must be changed - but not in the way now proposed.

There are real objections to so short a bar as one year. A marriage can hardly be said to have "irretrievably broken down" during its first few months; it has barely started. Difficulties of adjustment frequently occur which a little more determination can overcome.

But why should a partner persevere? The proposed legislation will make it possible for a person to be legally married to two different partners within 18 months of the first marriage - hardly a contribution to the stability of marriage. If marriage can be ended almost as soon as it begins, there is no real possibility of reconciliation.

If the first marriage was so disastrous that it ended almost when it began, what is required is a pause for reflection and perhaps reconciliation, rather than freedom to rush headlong into a second marriage which could be equally disastrous. A pause of three years is no more "unreasonable" than the law as it stands. It would impose some people's moral views on those who do not hold them (as the Lord Chancellor alleged in that television interview) than his own requirement of a one-year bar on the presentations of petitions.

Urgent relief is sometimes needed for people in impossible situations after one year of marriage. But there is no bar on petitions for a decree of judicial separation, which differs in its legal effects only in that it does not permit remarriage. It may be converted after three years into a decree of dissolution.

It can be objected that to impose an absolute bar on petitions for divorce during the first three years of marriage, and to allow only petitions for judicial separation, is to encourage adultery; but surely even

that possibility is preferable to another marriage failure following on the first breakdown.

At a time when steps should be taken to rehabilitate the family as a stabilizing influence in society, there is a danger that those who take their basic morality from what the law permits will increasingly view marriage as a temporary contract, to be abandoned when things get difficult, even, if need be, within a few months of undertaking it.

Churchmen have a legitimate fear about this progressive erosion. At present the clergy of the Church of England act as registrars for the state, so that marriages solemnized in the parish church are entered in its register books. But there can come a stage when the state's view of marriage is so different from that of the church, that the church can no longer recognize (as it does at present) that there is no difference in essence between civil and ecclesiastical marriages.

At that stage the church would have to insist on universal civil registration followed (by those who want it) by a church wedding. Most clergy would view this prospect with great reluctance; but if present trends continue, it would seem inevitable.

The author is Bishop of Birmingham and chairman of the Church of England Board for Social Responsibility.

Philip Jacobson reports on US attempts to stabilize El Salvador

Why the arm's length army may fail



Boys to the battle: government soldiers in El Salvador rest after a long struggle against guerrillas

San Salvador. Leonardo Contreras looks 15 and cannot keep a straight face when he claims to be 18, the official minimum age for enlisting in the Salvadoran army, which he did a few months ago. Private Contreras now wears the camouflage smock and black scarf of the First Battalion of the San Vicente Cazadores, proudly flaunting the regimental crest on his T-shirt.

It is on the fighting qualities of fresh-faced boys like him, some not much taller than their new M-16 rifles, that the fate of the Reagan Administration's ambitious, immensely costly "hearts and minds" campaign in San Vicente province, launched last June, now depends.

Cazadores means hunter, and the lightly equipped, US-trained units like Leonardo's are intended to do what the Salvadoran army has signally failed to do before - carry the fight to the left-wing guerrillas who turned the once-lush province into a wasteland of ruined crops, charred warehouses and blown bridges.

If the Cazadores cannot knock the guerrillas permanently off balance with night patrols, counter-ambushes and relentless pursuit, the accompanying civilian phase of "Operation Wellbeing" is doomed.

Almost six months after its launch, Operation Wellbeing is about to face its first serious test. The well-armed, combat-hardened guerrillas who withdrew from the region soon after 4,000 of the government's best troops arrived are mounting a big offensive to wreck what has so far been achieved.

In the opinion of Colonel Rinaldo Golcher, the able Salvadoran officer running the show in San Vicente, the guerrillas seriously miscalculated the military's determination to see the operation through. When offensives elsewhere failed to decoy the army command into pulling forces out of the region the guerrillas were obliged to attack the pacification scheme head-on, or lose credibility on the battlefield. But Col Golcher maintains, his men were ready, even eager, to engage them.

A series of limited but bloody encounters began late in the

summer: the tempo of the fighting has increased steadily since then.

Only two months ago, western military sources here were happy enough about the performance of the Cazadores in San Vicente. An increase in casualties among junior officers was cited as evidence of a new aggressive spirit where it was most needed. There were also instances of Salvadoran troops firing on each other at night, suggesting an attempt, at least, to contest the hours of darkness with the guerrillas. At the same time, it was claimed, the troops were providing a generally effective shield for the civilian reconstruction work in the province.

Driving around San Vicente's lush countryside, I found an impressive contrast with the dangerous, empty roads, strewn with wrecked vehicles, of six months ago. The cotton crop seems to be doing well: crowded buses and trucks hurtle past in the usual suicidal fashion. Relaxed government troops at checkpoints wave you through cheerfully with calls of "Todo tranquilo" (all quiet).

But back in San Salvador, there is growing concern in western military circles about the Salvadoran army's long-term ability even to hold its own.

Too many troops seem to be losing the will to fight, especially when the going gets tough. A sizeable contingent from one fresh Cazador battalion recently surrendered, with a handsome score of new

weapons, after token resistance to guerrillas who had surrounded it.

The "quick reaction" battalions are finding it increasingly hard to persuade volunteers to re-enlist. The impression that control is once again slipping away from the government is reinforced by some grim arithmetic from the front lines. The army casualty rate in the year to last July was running at more than 20 per cent, and will almost certainly rise when the expected heavy fighting begins again.

Moreover, a distressingly high ratio of killed to wounded soldiers reflects continuing problems with medical treatment on the battlefield. Nothing demoralizes troops more than the knowledge that they may lie in agony for hours because helicopters are unserviceable and army surgeons overworked.

Most observers here consider that guerrilla losses are proportionately no greater - conceivably sharply lower - than those of the security forces. That is alarming enough in military terms, but the financial implications for the Reagan Administration's pursuit of victory in El Salvador are truly horrendous.

It cost the British government considerably more than £100,000 at today's prices to kill a single guerrilla during the emergency in Malaya in the 1950s. The Americans are fighting their proxy war in El Salvador on an incomparably more lavish scale. A single helicopter gunship costs more than £3m; field radios, crucial to counter-insurgency

tactics, cost £700 each; every automatic rifle that falls into guerrilla hands represents more than £300 of Uncle Sam's money.

Then there is the question of manpower. Conventional wisdom holds that government forces need to outnumber guerrilla enemies by at least 10 to 1 to achieve ultimate victory. Doubling the size of El Salvador's 35,000-strong security forces would barely provide that sort of superiority over the country's estimated 6,000 to 7,000 hardcore guerrillas. Financing an expansion of this size would be a nightmare for the Reagan Administration, which already finds it difficult to get fairly modest amounts of military aid to El Salvador approved by an apprehensive Congress.

Finally, there is an aspect of the war in El Salvador which seems to have escaped the notice of strategists in Washington shuffling Central American dominoes. After three years of reporting from here, I am convinced that providing hastily-trained young soldiers with increasingly sophisticated and heavier weapons is simply not compatible with the aim of getting them into close combat with guerrillas in vital regions such as San Vicente.

Salvadoran troops fight bravely enough when they have confidence in their officers. But it is only human nature for raw farm boys like Private Contreras to want to employ their ever-increasing range and firepower at the greatest possible distance from the enemy.

(unofficially) prohibited from competing in any international tournament where he was known to be playing.

Not so Garry, who belongs to the new generation. He recently met the intrepid exile in a blitz tournament of five-minute games in Yugoslavia. It was this personal rapprochement which lay behind the high-level chess diplomacy for the rescheduling of his match after Kasparov had, formally, forfeited the whole contest when the Soviet authorities refused last summer to play the event in Pasadena.

K v K must be seen as a political match as much as a contest of chess. For Korchnoi, the will to prove himself in exile, to rise above the system which he rejected, burns fiercely. He is first and foremost a fighter. If he could defeat Kasparov, it would be more than an extraordinary upset in chess terms; it would vindicate his stance for independence and freedom of choice in the most public way.

To say this is not to type-cast Kasparov as the official representative of the system - he is too young for such a role. It is, rather, that Soviet culture, the whole apparatus which nurtures and develops chess talent so superbly, is in an obvious sense at stake in this match.

The defeat of Korchnoi is an absolute *sine qua non* for Soviet chess. It places an even greater responsibility on the young shoulders of the wonder-boy from Baku.

David Spanier



The prodigy and the non-person: Kasparov, left, and Korchnoi

According to his trainer Garry played rather weakly but differed from other beginners by his exceptional memory. He learned by heart the moves, results and scores of world championship matches.

Garry never looked back. From fourth category player, to third, to second, to first category at nine years old; to Soviet candidate master, enrolment in the correspondence chess school of the world champion Mikhail Botvinnik; and on to become Soviet junior champion in 1976, Soviet Master of Sport in 1978, and International Grandmaster at the age of 17: to winning the super-powerful USSR Championship in 1981, aged 18; to trouncing the field in the qualifying Moscow interzonal last September.

Personally, Kasparov seems relatively free of those self-destructive urges which have flawed so many champions of the past. He has an engaging style. With his shock of

fuzzy dark hair and pale, concentrated gaze, he has the look of a West Side rocker, ready for action. He sits nervously at the board, continually shifting around, frowning under thick eyebrows, or he marches up and down, waiting for his opponent's move.

Viktor Korchnoi, already three times a challenger for the title, was summarily stripped of his titles Honoured Master of Sport, Grandmaster and Master of Sport of the USSR, after his defection from the Soviet Union in July, 1976. In effect, the Soviet chess federation sought to declassify him, to rub his name out of the contemporary record of chess.

This has proved inordinately difficult to do, because Korchnoi refuses to lie down. He happened to be the second best player in the world at that time; ergo, his name was always popping up, much to the annoyance of the Soviet censors. So other Soviet grandmasters were

David Watt

The missile strategy that could misfire

The arrival of the cruise missiles at Greenham Common marks the inexorable climax of one of the most ridiculous tragedies in the history of the Western alliance - which is saying a good deal. Everything is topsy-turvy. Virtually nobody - least of all the centre - who has studied the matter in truth and honestly convinced - that these weapons have a satisfactory military justification. On the contrary, if they have any effect it is probably to weaken the link between Europe and the American strategic deterrent. They frighten the Russians, of course, but at what a political cost!

The process of deploying them has destabilized West Germany, created havoc in the Low Countries, set the British in an uproar and given the Soviet Union its best propaganda against the US for many years. Our politicians are having to sit their teeth and make speeches either they or anyone else really believes, saying how splendid it all is and how much Nato security is enhanced by it. But it is perfectly obvious that if one takes into account the political divisions within the Alliance and the morale of public opinion, our security is weaker now than when the argument started.

This is the kind of mess competent politicians are supposed to keep us out of. So how did we get into it? The answer is that we were caught in a trap of our own contrivance. It is worth looking back to the debates of 1978 and 1979 (when the decision was made for the rationale. The most important factors were:

● Chancellor Schmidt's neurotic view of United States leadership after Watergate - particularly President Carter's. Here were these new Soviet weapons, the SS20 and the Backfire Bomber, pointing at West Germany and there was nothing to point back with except some old aircraft and the wavering finger of a discredited US chief executive.

● The desire of the US defence establishment, faced with Soviet strategic nuclear parity for the first time, to improve the credibility of American deterrence at the lower levels - i.e. at intermediate and battlefield range.

● The related fear of the Americans that they were going to have no cards to play in the next round of the arms-control negotiations.

All these factors pushed towards the modernization of those nuclear forces in Europe capable of reaching Soviet territory. The Nato High Level Group (of officials) which was set up to produce a policy contained doubts. "But," they asked, "won't you actually make it look even less likely that the US President will press the button to fire intercontinental missiles from the US if he can confine a nuclear exchange to Europe?" "No," replied the modernizers, "not if you put your nuclear weapons on European land (as opposed to on submarines). If American weapons are involved early on in an attack on Europe and might even be overrun, the US is bound to escalate and the link with America and the defence of Europe is actually strengthened."

The famous "two-track decision" of December 1979 was the result - after which everything was totally immovable. Every change in the public position would undermine the West's bargaining hand with the Soviet Union; and since the main pressure for this was bound to come from the left, no NATO government dared be seen giving in to it for fear of raising US accusations of weakness and even neutralism.

Finally, there is an aspect of the war in El Salvador which seems to have escaped the notice of strategists in Washington shuffling Central American dominoes. After three years of reporting from here, I am convinced that providing hastily-trained young soldiers with increasingly sophisticated and heavier weapons is simply not compatible with the aim of getting them into close combat with guerrillas in vital regions such as San Vicente.

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A scoop is champagne to journalists, though it may be cavine to the general reader. Scoop: a story which a Sunday newspaper labels "exclusive" to indicate that the opposition did not consider it worth printing; less technically, a lie.

Of course, scoops are the red meat of journalism and sell newspapers. *The Times* made its name and its fortunes by publishing the news, for example of Wellington's campaigns in Spain, before anybody else. The greatest scoop of all time was probably on Saturday, July 13, 1878, when we published in our later editions the preamble and text of the Treaty of Berlin in the very moment that Bismarck and the other statesmen of Europe were signing the secret document.

It is a Le Carré plot, with the wrong hat being picked up in a restaurant every day, documents stitched in the lining of coats, a photographic memory, and a midnight train across Europe to the unsuspecting telegraph office at Brussels. It was a famous journalistic triumph. Nevertheless, it is possible that Henri de Blowitz, the flamboyant *Times* correspondent who scooped the world and astonished Bismarck, was more impressed by his achievement than the ordinary reader of *The Times*, who was presented with 57 pretty complex clauses first in French, then in English, over tea.

Breaking the news first is still a prime function and ambition of newspapers. But I think it is carrying the ambition too far to apply it to book reviewing. Some books are sensational and newsy, usually bad books. With such books, the news has to be broken no later than anybody else, on publication day. Serious books are concerned with the imagination and the intellect, and it does not make a blind bit of difference when the review appears. Those who take an interest in such matters are going to read it anyway, to carry on the national debate between authors, readers and critics.

The BBC, kids playing at Blowitz, carries the lust for scoops to absurd lengths. That is why the presentation of the Booker Prize has been turned into a farcical media circus. It insists on absolute priority and exclusivity if it is going to "review" a book. Different departments at the BBC fight to scoop each other. If *Bookends* has agreed to puff a book, *Spectator* will not look at it.

We had a jolly instance the other day. Lord Denning's latest book, *The Changing Chapter* (and I bet it is not), arrived in the office a week before publication. It is news to *The Times*, because in Lord Denning's case that he decided to retire after a leader in the paper. My scoop-hound news masters wanted to publish the news as soon as possible, if possible before anybody else. I telephoned the publisher, the noble house of Butterworth, to seek permission to break the embargo of publication day.

Butterworth turned collectively pale. *Hello Chaps*, or some other influential BBC programme, had agreed to interview Denning on the eve of publication. If *The Times* scooped them, they might withdraw their offer in a huff. Publishers are wet about the BBC's outrageous demands.

The story has a happy ending. By one of the little accidents of publishing, the book's publicity handout (for the benefit of literary editors who cannot read) got the publication date wrong, a week early. So, playing by the book, we went ahead to publish and be damned. *Hello Chaps*, of course and match, went ahead with their interview with Denning anyway - he gives a good interview. And we shall review the book in good time.

I have news for you, dear friends at Butters. Allowing two days in each direction for the first-class mail, and two days for the deeply wonderful technology of photocopying to set the review, my eminent and busy reviewer is barely left with one day to read and review an important book for publication that week. We shall have to wait. And it will be worth waiting for.

Philip Howard

Taking the cover off the booked-up scoop

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OFF TO A PATCHY START

Mr Lawson concluded his economic statement yesterday by saying that he intended "sticking to and, indeed, reinforcing" the sound financial policies so far pursued by the Thatcher government. If this remark is seriously meant the Chancellor has a great deal of work to do between now and the next Budget. The contents of the statement indicate a policy of sound financial policies, not reinforcement.

The first disappointment was the revision of the public sector borrowing requirement estimate for the current fiscal year from £8.200m to £10,000m. The news was hardly unexpected, but it confirms that the Government has failed to keep a proper grip on expenditure. Receipts should actually be higher than at first envisaged because of good North Sea tax revenues and more asset sales, implying that the overshoot on spending is even bigger than the £1,800m increase in the budget deficit.

Arguably, Mr Lawson has had little time to change the outcome in 1983/84 since so much was already determined when he became Chancellor in June. But he did have the opportunity yesterday to make his mark on the next fiscal year. This he has signally failed to do. The target for the 1984/85 PSBR/GDP ratio set by Sir Geoffrey Howe in his last budget has been retained, although a number of recent developments suggest that it should have been reduced.

Among the most welcome of these developments has been the upturn in economic activity, which the Treasury now thinks will lead to 3 per cent rises in national output in both 1983 and

1984. Although these figures are above those expected by most independent forecasting groups, they are realistic. If they are met, tax revenues will improve and social security costs will be lowered. That should permit a fall in the PSBR - but Mr Lawson is leaving his PSBR/GDP target exactly the same as Sir Geoffrey Howe's.

Also important is the need to adjust the PSBR target for the more ambitious programme of special asset sales on which the Government has embarked. Receipts from these sales reduce the PSBR, but are not a permanent source of revenue. It would be quite wrong to have either higher spending or tax cuts in the years when they are taking place. But, by keeping to the original 1984/85 PSBR target, Mr Lawson has created a risk that this might be allowed to happen.

It is not easy, using official sources, to quantify the problem. The Treasury's document on the *Autumn Statement 1983* gives a figure for special assets sales of £400m higher than that in the last expenditure White Paper. If Mr Lawson is really committed to "sticking to and, indeed, reinforcing" sound financial policies, his 1984/85 PSBR target should be cut by at least this amount.

But the £400m figure is puzzlingly low and seems to make no allowance for possible proceeds from the privatisation of British Telecom. If BT privatisation does in fact yield substantial sums to the Government the PSBR target should be adjusted downwards again.

The imprudence of using capital receipts to finance current expenditure should be so obvious as not to require comment, let alone emphasis. But the announced changes in the spending plans for next year show that it certainly does need emphasis. In paragraph 9 of the statement Mr Lawson notes that spending on health, social services and a number of other programmes will be above the totals foreseen in the last expenditure White Paper. In paragraph 10 he says that "these increases are offset by higher receipts from the sale of council houses and the like" and by reductions in some other areas.

In other words, the money from council house sales - which could well be above £1,500m, both this year and next - is being used to finance an overspend on the welfare state. This may or may not be what the electorate expects from a Thatcher government supposedly respecting "Victorian values". But if a true Victorian like Lord Beveridge were alive today he would probably be dismayed.

Every Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to have a difficult patch in his first two years. Both Mr. Healey and Sir Geoffrey Howe had particularly uncomfortable periods in their early days. On the evidence of yesterday's statement Mr. Lawson's Chancellorship is conforming to the same pattern. He has much to do if public expenditure is to be brought under full control and more effective guidelines for fiscal policy are to be established.

THE CARDINAL AND THE BOMB

It will be reassuring to Government, and reassuring to public opinion generally, that Cardinal Hume has arrived by his own route at a qualified endorsement of the defence strategy of nuclear deterrence, as it was similarly reassuring last February when the General Synod of the Church of England reached similar conclusions. Along the way, each was strongly tempted towards repudiation of this strategy. Each had to negotiate an honest way round the superficially attractive argument, especially attractive to churchmen, that the possession of nuclear weapons, with the intention in certain circumstances to use them, was morally equivalent to using them. Cardinal Hume, with a great deal of authority in his own church and much respect in the country at large behind him, has formally denied that equation. It is not entirely academic: those in the armed services with nuclear responsibilities in particular have recently been told that their duties were preparations for war crimes, and if this simplistic moral analysis were to be accepted, such startling conclusions follow.

In public anxiety about nu-

clear policy, however, as in Cardinal Hume's statement and many other secular and religious utterances, there is an urgent tone of dissatisfaction. There is deterrence, but there is also a nuclear arms race. The bomb cannot be disinvited, certainly, but both sides strive remorselessly to invent ever more effective ways of delivering it, hoping to gain some advantage, or correct some disadvantage. Mutual antagonism is better directed into that than into fighting actual war, of course, but Cardinal Hume is not alone in asking for something else, and it is a plea which transcends politics, transcends the East-West divide, and voices the distress of common humanity. The megaton nuclear bomb is the nearest thing to incarnate Evil in this world. That we have been so far able to control it, and to do so to maintain the peace, is a strange paradox. The Cardinal notes a fundamental imperative to seek some other way. In defending current defence policy against naive or malicious critics, politicians do not always display sufficient appreciation of this imperative, though none, surely, would ever want to deny it.

A consequence of the cardinal's analysis which will find wide but not universal support, is that it implies a shift away from nuclear deterrence towards greater reliance upon conventional force. There is a body of military opinion in the West already saying that on military grounds. It is also the course which is even more moral.

It is not an easy answer. In the absence of any nuclear disarmament agreement, the cost of maintaining a credible nuclear deterrence force will continue to be considerable even while conventional forces are built up. This has all sorts of implications. But such is the general nuclear nervousness in society, public opinion may prefer to bear the cost of this if it heralded a future in which the nuclear threat was receding. This is not the drift of present British - or Western - defence policy. At present we have the benefit of a peace kept by a relatively low nuclear threshold. When cardinals and generals are raising it, for their own different but complementary reasons, governments must listen to moral and military arguments about the next step beyond nuclear deterrence.

STRUGGLING WITHOUT TITO

Britain's special relationship with Yugoslavia was forged in 1943, when Captain F. W. Deakin arrived by parachute and joined Tito's embattled partisans in their long march across Montenegro and Bosnia, thereby entering the mythology of the Yugoslav revolution. The relationship was sealed the following year when Winston Churchill, on the advice of Brigadier Fitzroy Maclean, told the House of Commons that Britain would cease supplying the royalist forces of Colonel Mihailovic because they were not fighting the Germans. "We have," he said, "proclaimed ourselves the strong supporters of Marshal Tito because of his heroic and massive struggle against the German armies".

The relationship would not have survived - any more than the wartime alliance with Stalin survived - if post-war Yugoslavia had remained in the Soviet orbit as the brutal, Stalinist dictatorship which it showed signs of becoming in its early days. But in 1949 it broke with Stalin, who retaliated with an economic boycott, so it turned to the West for help and gradually became a more open and liberal

place, though still far from perfect in its treatment of opposition.

Credit and grants flowed in from the United States and Western Europe, together with military aid and political support. At first there were hopes in Washington that other East European states would be encouraged to take the same route. Even when they did not, Yugoslavia remained an asset as a non-aligned country steadfastly resisting Soviet pressure. Its membership of the non-aligned movement is still valuable today and has contributed to the frustration of Cuban attempts to align the movement with the Soviet Union.

Against this long background the visit to London this week by Mrs Milka Planinc, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, has been particularly welcome. She has the very difficult task of trying to hold together a decentralized, fissile country in a period of severe economic stress. Considering the gloomy prognostications which accompanied the death of Tito in 1980, she and her colleagues are not doing too badly. They are surviving and

showing every sign of not wishing to continue as chronic debtors in perpetual search of help. They have reduced their hard currency balance of payments deficit, mostly at the expense of living standards. They appear to be arresting a worrying tilt towards trade with the Soviet Union, caused not by political preference but economic need. They have won sufficient confidence from the World Bank, the IMF and the private banks to have signed a large re-scheduling and new loan package this year. They have reasonable hopes of further help in response to their own efforts to put their economy in order, though many private banks are still hesitant.

But whether the Yugoslav system is really workable in the long run remains an open question. Practically every decision requires the agreement of six republics, each stubbornly defending what it perceives to be its own national and economic interest, and each burdened by layers of representative bodies. It looks magnificently democratic on paper but comes perilously close to engendering despair in practice.

In common with every other country of sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania has no system of registration of births and deaths from which valid indices of fertility and mortality can be calculated. Such measures must, therefore, be estimated from information collected in censuses and surveys.

In the case of Tanzania data on mortality were collected in the censuses of 1967 and 1978 and in a large-scale sample survey conducted in 1973. The 1973 survey data do indeed indicate a dramatic decline in infant and child mortality when compared with those of the 1967 census. Regrettably this decline is so dramatic as to be unacceptable. A

Obligations under international law

From Professor Hedley Bull
Sir, Roger Scruton, in commending the willingness of the United States Government to commit aggression (feature, November 15) tells us that international law cannot be enforced, that there is no general readiness to obey it, that governments that do not obey the rule of law at home have no respect for it abroad and (if I understand him correctly) that the principles of international law do not apply beyond the boundaries of European civilisation.

In fact international law is sometimes enforced and was recently by the United Kingdom in the South Atlantic. Overt disregard for clear rules of international law, like the prohibition of military aggression, is the exception rather than the rule.

Unrepresentative governments are no more able than representative ones to avoid the political costs in the outside world of disregard for the rules. States of other than European civilisation, so far from being unable to grasp the principles of international law, in recent decades have played a central role in adapting it to the needs of our time. The United States, which expects others to accord it a position of leadership in world affairs, has more to lose than most states from flagrant violation of the law.

Yours faithfully,
HEDLEY BULL,
Balliol College, Oxford.
November 16.

From Mr Max Jennings
Sir, I do not claim to be an international lawyer, but I cannot allow Mr Scruton to get away with his statement today (November 15) that "it is only public opinion at home that can compel a government to abide by the precepts of international law".

The whole point of the subject is that when a state is attacked by another state it is then, and only then, justified in resorting to force.

As if all that stood between the West and Soviet domination were Kant's proposals for a federation of free states!
Yours faithfully,
MAX JENNINGS,
12 Elton Place,
Blackheath, SE3.

Dual-key control

From Mr Adrian Walker
Sir, Professor Brown (November 7) appears to be rather concerned about the management of cruise missiles, due to their possible pre-nuclear use as conventional bomb carriers or reconnaissance gatherers.

Would he tell us how Russian military intelligence would be able to distinguish between in-flight, non-nuclear and nuclear cruise missiles? Surely this is an important point of "verification". Without such a distinction the pre-nuclear phase is not likely to last very long.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN WALKER,
Humbly Grove College of Higher Education,
Cottingham Road, Hull.
November 7.

Buildings at risk

From the President of the Council for British Archaeology
Sir, I am writing to support the plea (October 25) by the Chairman of the GLC Historic Buildings Panel for the retention of the Historic Buildings Division in the event of the Greater London Council being broken up by legislation.

These proposals have further wider implications for the recording of London's historic environment. Earlier this year the division was responsible for the creation of the Greater London Archaeological Service. This service will coordinate excavation of archaeological sites threatened by development throughout the area administered by the GLC.

This rescue archaeological service, taken together with the Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London, has at long last provided the capital with a comprehensive archaeological service. It would be a tragedy if this coordinated approach to London's archaeology should now be disbanded.

The problem is not confined solely to London. There is similar concern for the provision of archaeological services in the other metropolitan county councils if they, too, are disbanded. I hope that in these areas the archaeological service will be maintained in any reorganisation.

Yours faithfully,
TOM HASSALL, President,
Council for British Archaeology,
112 Kennington Road, SE11.

Nyerere's experiments

From Dr J. G. C. Blacker

Sir, Mr Oscar Kambona (October 25) casts doubts on the figures quoted by Lord Hatch (October 10) of a rise in the expectation of life at birth in Tanzania from 40 to 52 years. It is indeed pertinent to ask where these figures come from.

In common with every other country of sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania has no system of registration of births and deaths from which valid indices of fertility and mortality can be calculated. Such measures must, therefore, be estimated from information collected in censuses and surveys.

In the case of Tanzania data on mortality were collected in the censuses of 1967 and 1978 and in a large-scale sample survey conducted in 1973. The 1973 survey data do indeed indicate a dramatic decline in infant and child mortality when compared with those of the 1967 census. Regrettably this decline is so dramatic as to be unacceptable. A

Case for more public spending

From Mr Robert Phillipson
Sir, Your leader, "It depends on the rate of return" (November 16), rightly says that the case for more public investment must rest on firm economic and social arguments. But it is going too far to suggest that the recent fall in public investment can be ascribed to absence of projects which meet rigorous criteria.

The implication that anyone who argues for more investment is relying on "old and discredited" Keynesian demand stimulus theory is simply refuted by your distinguished correspondent, Professor Christopher Foster (feature, November 15), who makes an entirely reasonable case for public investment.

Nor surely should you let pass without comment that the present Government, when in opposition, argued strongly for a better balance between capital and current spending, yet has allowed the latter to rise eight times as fast as the former. It is Sir Geoffrey Howe who, more than anyone, is responsible for ensuring that Britain struggles out of recession with an economic and social infrastructure worse than most of its competitors and indeed worse than it was in 1979.

It was the same Sir Geoffrey who said in the *Idle on Dogs* in 1978: "You can literally see the dangerous extent to which we have been living off the industrial and social capital that was accumulated by earlier generations - and failing to amass our own. Resources have been diverted to maintain consumer living standards. But no seed-corn has been saved for tomorrow."

CND and Mgr Kent

From Mr Peter Presland
Sir, The policies advocated by CND rely for their presumed success on tolerance, forbearance and good will in their country's potential enemies, but the treatment accorded Mr Hesbain at Manchester on Tuesday is yet another telling illustration of the fundamental flaw in those policies.

CND leaders may indeed deplore what happened but, if their own rank-and-file supporters are so manifestly incapable of showing tolerance towards their opponents in debate, what evidence can they adduce for any prospect of better behaviour by the Soviet leadership towards a unilaterally weakened West?

Human nature does not change but, despite counting a Catholic priest among their number, CND's leadership appears to be blissfully unaware of it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PRESLAND,
17 Stamford Crescent,
Chase Terrace,
Walsall, Staffordshire.

From Miss Mary Spain
Sir, A simplistic point of view, perhaps but I feel deeply ashamed that my country, which I love, should be used to house lethal missiles, under the control and ownership of a country towards whose governmental policies I hold no personal allegiance, in order to terrorise another country on our shared planet towards whose people I hold no personal animosity.

Yours faithfully,
MARY SPAIN,
Flat 6,
67 Gloucester Terrace, W2.
November 16.

From Mr Alistair Duncan
Sir, Surely it may now be said that the mantle of Hewlett Johnson has fallen upon Bruce Kent. Is this to be considered an ecumenical advance?

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR DUNCAN,
Travelers Club,
Fell Mill, SW1.
November 15.

Cost of the EEC

From Mr H. E. Gilmore
Sir, You make an important and timely point in your leader of November 7. It makes no sense to persist with profligate spending by the EEC at a time when increasing financial stringency is forced on each member domestically.

If we can make an appropriate cut in agricultural expenditure, less drastic cuts need be made in defence, education, and the health services.

Many of us believe no cut in agricultural expenditure will be achieved until we leave the Common Market. But surely those who want to stay in the Common Market should accept the challenge to insist on such a cut before the end of 1983, by unilateral action if there is no other way.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. GILMORE,
17 Carlton Road,
Ealing, W5.
November 7.

critical comparison of the data shows that the 1973 survey implied not merely that no children had died during the interval, but that there had been a resurrection of some of the children recorded as dead in 1967.

The report of the 1978 census has recently been released and it concludes that, on the basis of the new data, the expectation of life in Tanzania is of the order of 44 years. This represents only a minimal improvement on the figure of 41 years estimated from the 1967 census.

Unfortunately the margins of error attached to both figures are so great as to preclude any firm conclusions being drawn as to the extent, if any, of mortality decline, particularly since the questions from which the data were derived differed in the two censuses.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. C. BLACKER,
Centre for Population Studies,
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,
31 Bedford Square, WC1.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE G. WILLIAMS, Chairman,
DVLD Trade Union Side Office,
Driver and Vehicle Licensing
Centre,
Longview Road,
Clase,
Swansea.
November 11.

Letters to the Editor

Has the improvement in our derelict inner cities really been so great that there is no longer any role for the public sector? Is our road system up to the demands placed upon it by existing traffic, let alone the greater traffic that economic prosperity will inevitably bring? The teetering Severn bridge suggests otherwise. Does the condition of all our housing stock adequately meet basic standards?

The answer must be no. It doesn't require enormous economic sophistication to justify more spending. Is it too much to ask just why the relentless pursuit of zero inflation or of lower borrowing are more important than the creation of real wealth? Is not the priority given to privatisation diverting attention from the need to sustain investment in sectors best kept within the public remit?

And, in this connection, if the Treasury Chief Secretary really believes that privatisation provides the best means of solving the dilemma posed by public investment shortfall, why has the Treasury yet to sanction the private Black Country road, which benefits roads users, ratepayers, industry and builders alike?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT PHILLIPSON,
Director General,
The Aggregate Construction
Materials Industries,
25 Lower Belgrave Street, SW1.
November 16.

The Mosley papers

From Lady Mosley
Sir, May I comment on your report (November 10) on the contents of the Mosley papers so far disclosed by the Home Office.

1. The reason for what Nicholas Mosley calls Mosley's insouciance about spies in his movement was that he had nothing to hide.

2. A certain number of members of the Armed Forces looked upon Mosley with favour as the one politician who called for rearmament and said it was dangerous for Britain to be the only unarmed country in an armed world. Later on, Churchill said the same thing.

There is nothing seditious in this. 3. Mosley sought no contact of any kind with Edward VIII while he was King, nor did he do so in 1937, or at any time until long after the war in the nineteen fifties. British Union's call in 1936 to "stand by the King" naturally ceased when the King abdicated. It immediately transferred its allegiance to George VI.

I knew my husband's thoughts on the subject; he greatly regretted the abdication, but it was a *fait accompli*. The conversation about being loyal to the Crown, "but that did not necessarily mean loyalty to the present monarch," must be pure invention, since this was never his opinion.

4. I chanced to be present at the Carfax Rooms meeting in Oxford, Frank Pakenham (in 1936 a heavy rugby player) fought the stewards and was ejected, as were a few others, who had hoped to break up the meeting. Mosley, after this little fracas, resumed his speech to a large audience, took questions for nearly an hour, and was warmly applauded.

5. William Joyce was expelled from British Union in 1937. Two years later he broadcast from Germany, a treasonable activity which had nothing to do with British Union.

In justice, the Lord Chancellor must now release the wartime 188 interrogation of my husband.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA MOSLEY,
Temple de la Gloire,
91400 Orsay,
France.
November 10.

Car tax evasion

From Mr Clive G. Williams
Sir, The Comptroller and Auditor General's report on the impression that vehicle excise duty (VED) revenue is lost because the computer system at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea cannot cope (report, November 10). This is nonsense: the computer system can cope with all the work that comes its way. The reason for revenue loss is the shortage of staff at DVLC and in local offices to carry out enforcement work.

Sir Derek Rayner was brought in by Mrs Thatcher to examine efficiency within the Civil Service. He looked at VED enforcement and concluded more staff were necessary to increase revenue and that extra staff would be more cost-effective. The report merely confirmed what trade unions at DVLC have always argued. We have continually pressed management and ministers to provide more staff, without success.

So the reason why many evaders go scot-free is quite simply Government cuts. Many people are using this as an excuse to call for the abolition of VED and putting tax on petrol. People who call for this fail to consider the many consequences.

VED collection provides a means to check on a vehicle's insurance and roadworthiness. It will still be necessary to check on these regularly, so there would continue to be a fee for administration.

Despite all the problems, enforcement of VED is continually improving. In 1983, we will deal with about 80 per cent of the offence reports we receive. Evaders should not take heart from newspaper reports implying that they can expect to get away with it.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE G. WILLIAMS, Chairman,
DVLD Trade Union Side Office,
Driver and Vehicle Licensing
Centre,
Longview Road,
Clase,
Swansea.
November 11.

Holding Turkey to account

From Mr Peter Castle
Sir, In your leader, "Cyprus put asunder" (November 16), you refer to the Treaty of Guarantee as being "to all intents and purposes a dead letter". This is a most unfortunate choice of words in that it encourages acquiescence in what has become, by the declaration of independence of northern Cyprus, thereby recognizing "an existing reality", a unilateral act of aggression and usurpation by a guarantor power, Turkey.

It may well be that Britain and the Labour Government of the time did not take effective action to prevent the Turkish invasion. Indeed, the embarrassing situation in which Britain and the Foreign Office found themselves is exemplified by the answer given by Mr Callaghan, when asked subsequently in the Commons committee examining the failure to act as to whether he was surprised by the appearance of the invasion fleet, that he had lived "in a constant state of surprise". Yet at that time and subsequently the fact remained that Turkey purported to act in defence of the Constitution and independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

The declaration and recognition by Turkey and the authorities in northern Cyprus of independence on the basis of "an existing reality" removes all semblance of legality from the original occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkey and exposes that to have been no more than a preliminary act to the breach of the Treaty of Guarantee - a treaty entered into by Turkey with Britain and Greece, under which it is the guarantor duty to maintain the integrity of the state of Cyprus.

To accept the treaty now as a dead letter would be to accept the dictate of the aggressor and permit those with whom we have entered into treaty obligations to flout them with impunity.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CASTLE,
11 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
November 16.

Alliance unity

From Mr Richard Holmes
Sir, Sadly your leader (November 12) is right in one respect when it says that the two Alliance parties "are if anything, growing further apart as the post-election weeks pass".

This should not be so. Although both party conferences at Salford and Harrogate ruled out early merger there was a general will, expressed in resolutions, that there should be development of joint policy, joint campaigning initiatives, and more joint organization.

If the first steps had been taken in each of these areas at a national level the SDP and Liberal Party would already have been set on convergent paths towards eventual unity, as the voters want and expect.

Such steps have yet to be taken, and meanwhile separatism has been elevated above common activity. This will have a profoundly damaging effect on relationships between the parties locally.

For instance, if the disposition of seats for Europe and Westminster can be decided with a total mutual involvement locally and the closest cooperation nationally, Alliance standard-bearers will be chosen harmoniously. In a context of sharp-elbowed competition, however, party chauvinism will triumph and rows will ensue.

This question of strategy and direction cannot be dodged any longer. Either the Liberal Party and the SDP move closer together or they will drift rancorously apart. That may please the party chauvinists on both sides but, more significantly, it will delight the Tory and Labour parties to see the prospect of a genuine third force in British politics die of self-inflicted wounds.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HOLMES,
38 Murray Road,
Wimbledon, SW19.
November 14.

Farm tenancies

From Mr Stewart Deuchar
Sir, Oscar Colburn (November 11) gave a masterly explanation of why the landlord/tenant system is in disastrous decline and why this process should be reversed, but his suggestions for remedying the situation seem to be founded on hope rather than realism.

I cannot for the life of me see why we shouldn't simply scrap all the misguided interventionist legislation of the past 35 years and revert to the free market which worked so well for hundreds of years.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART DEUCHAR,
Dean Farm,
SINGLEBOROUGH,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire,
November 11.

Slightly off

From Mr Kenneth MacGowan
Sir, I am sorry to disagree with Sir Patrick Reilly (November 12) on the colour of the wine that makes up *un kir*. I drank some kir with the Canon (not a bad beginning for a Chester-Belloc ballade) in the early 1960s, I think, and the wine was definitely white. After all, he did not invent the drink; he only made it popular.

I also remember drinking it in the early thirties, when it was known (and still is) as a *cassis/vin blanc*, or a *vin blanc/cassis* according to your fancy.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MACGOWAN,
10 Wincanton Road,
Romford,
Essex.
November 14.

Men in Havana

From Mr Quinton V. S. Bach

Sir, Your editorial of November 8 gives a generally fair survey of the relationship between Moscow and Havana, but with regard to their trade relations it is somewhat misleading.

Firstly, the Soviet Union does need Cuban sugar and when the Cuban crop falls below expectation the Russians have to buy it elsewhere for hard currency and often at premium prices. Russia is also getting Cuban nickel in ever increasing quantities.

Secondly, you talk about Cuba receiving "a vast range of valuable

Soviet exports, including machinery, oil and basic foodstuffs". I agree that the oil, or "slop" oil and basic foodstuffs, represent some small sacrifice by the Soviet Union, but most of the machinery and many of the other manufactures are virtually unsaleable elsewhere.

Finally, you talk of the Russians allowing Cuba to run an annual trade deficit of "several hundred million roubles". This is only true of the last two years, with the total deficit in 1975-80 at about 700 million roubles the other way. But all these figures are simply window-dressing, since all the trade is barter, with values fixed bilaterally.

What is more, it has been

demonstrated that the Russians put a very high mark-up on the prices of commodities which they sell to their client states and it is reasonable to assume (though impossible to prove from the Soviet statistics available) that there is a similar mark-up on their industrial products.

The fact that a Russian car in England costs one seventh that of the same car in Cuba is, unfortunately, only an amusing irrelevance.

Yours faithfully,
QUINTON V. S. BACH,
Department of International Relations,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
November 9.

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is set in 700 acres of lovely countryside.

To have been there is a feather in anyone's cap.

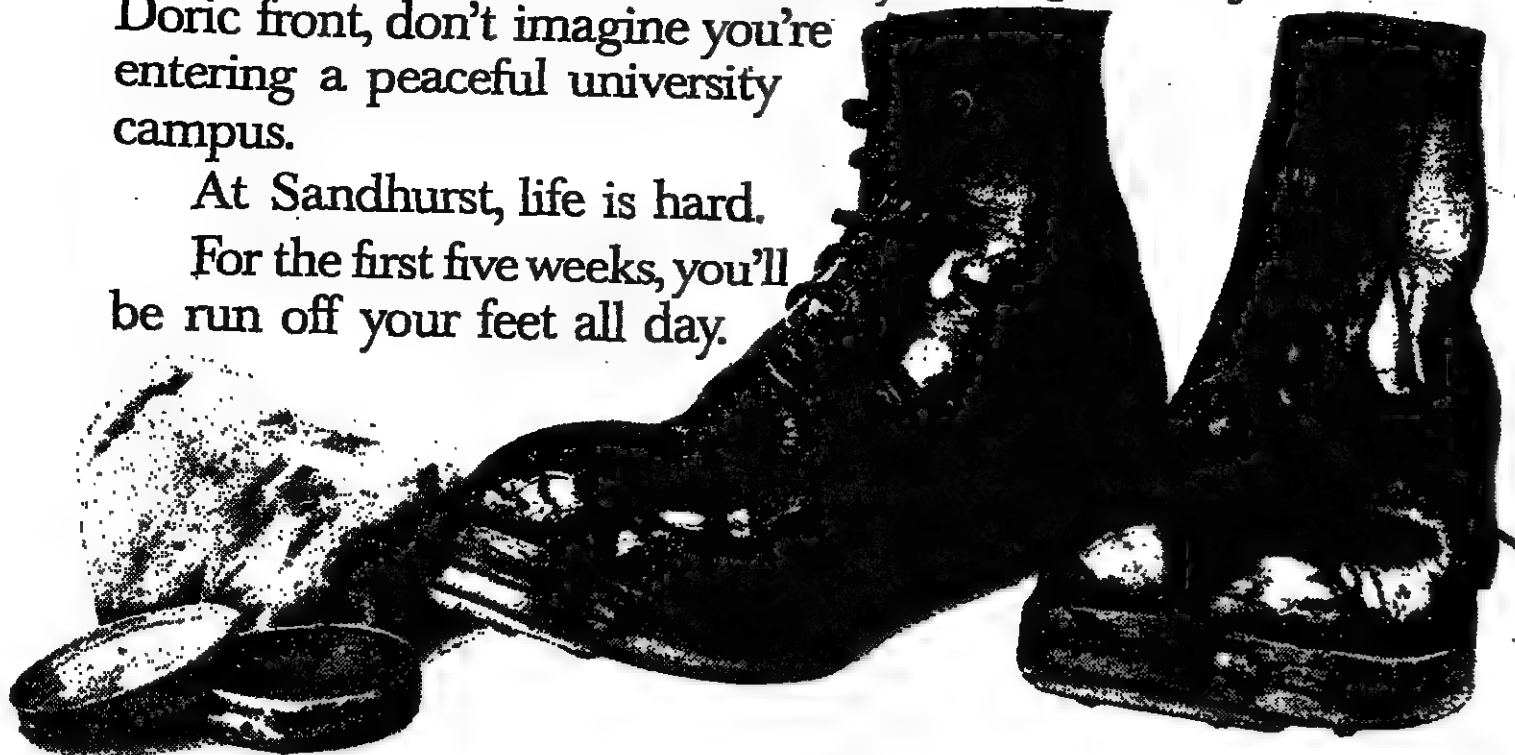
But as you approach its stately Doric front, don't imagine you're entering a peaceful university campus.

At Sandhurst, life is hard.

For the first five weeks, you'll be run off your feet all day.

physical limits.

And when you withdraw to the privacy of your own room, you will have studying to do on a wide range of subjects.



And you'll spend half the night boning up for the following day.

From the start, your staff sergeant will call you "sir." But that won't stop

Sandhurst. It's nice when it stops.

You'll be fitter and more alert than you ever thought possible.

You'll even find time for some of our many leisure activities.

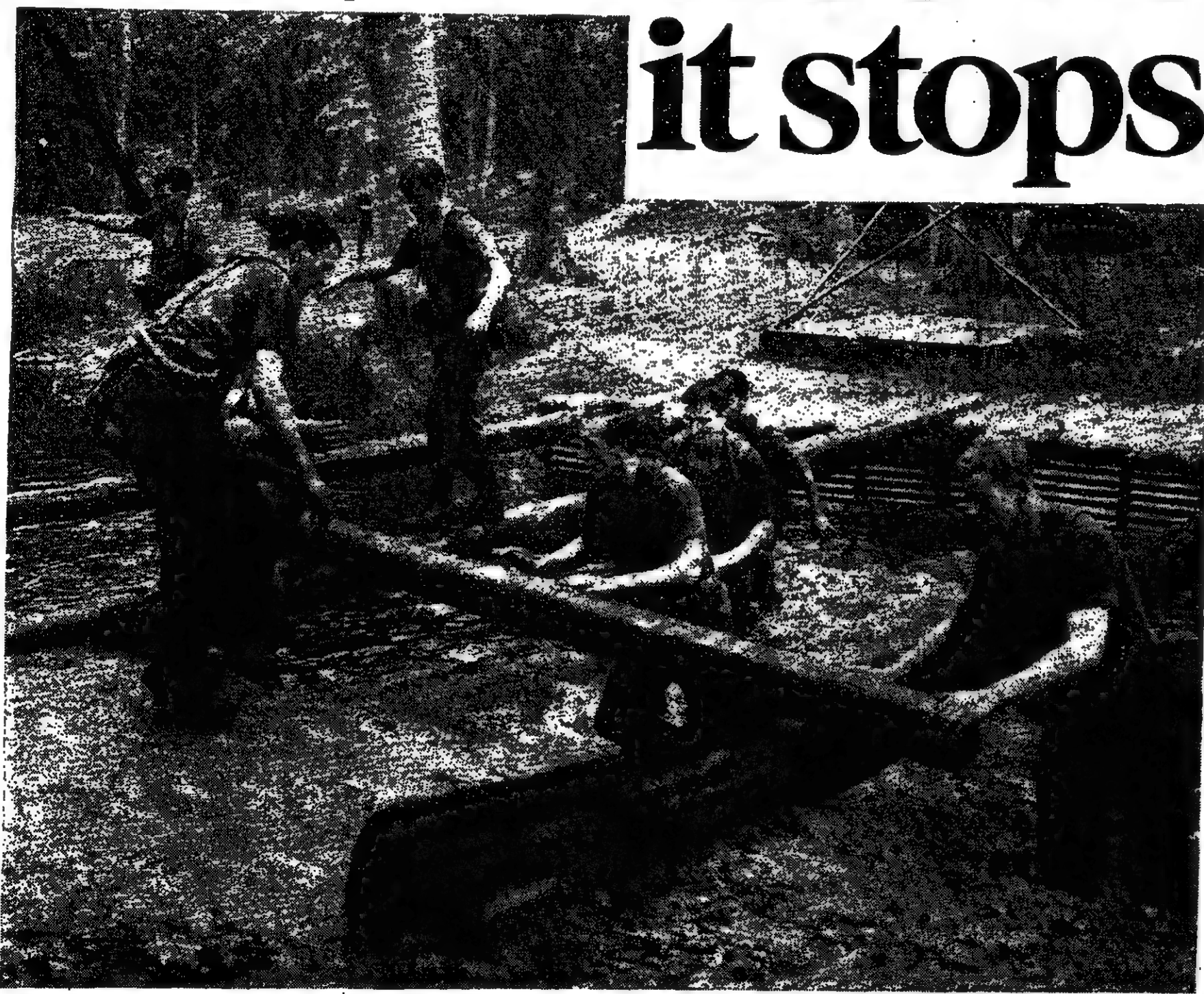
And when you're on the passing-out parade, you'll be proud of yourself.

We don't know a single officer who isn't proud he went to Sandhurst.

If you think you can stay the course, write to Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Department S2 Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR.

Tell him your date of birth, your school or university and the qualifications you have or expect.

In return, we'll tell you more about getting into Sandhurst and the opportunities that lie beyond.



him telling you what a horrible little man you are, "sir!"

There are time-proven reasons why you have to put up with this sort of treatment.

To impose discipline, you must be able to take it yourself.

And in the stress of action, you'll need to obey orders instantly as well as hand them out. (Bear in mind that you could be leading men in dangerous situations a few weeks after you're commissioned.)

During your period of training at Sandhurst, you'll be pushed to your

Sandhurst is, after all, an academy. And now more than ever an officer needs a well-furnished brain. Weapons systems are complex, and your soldiers will need intelligent management.

At all stages, you'll be encouraged to develop the potential for leadership which we found in you at the Regular Commissions Board.

And because our officer cadets are so carefully chosen, the failure rate is low.

Life at Sandhurst is by no means all pain.

You'll make life-long friendships.



Army Officer

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lawson casts shadow over interest rates

Money is not what it used to be in the Government's policy calculations. Hence, perhaps, the rather hopeful focus yesterday on the new monetary target, M0, based on notes and coins, which was almost unchanged last month.

The mainstream money variable, £M3, was confirmed as rising by 1.5 per cent in the four weeks to mid-October. After a good start to the autumn this is now up against the top end of the 7-11 per cent yearly target range at an annualized 10.8 per cent since February.

The wider monetary measure, including building societies, is over the top at an annualized 13.1 per cent so far. This is hardly likely to abate as the four weeks since have yielded the highest inflow into building societies in their history.

On this occasion, the worst interpretation of the money figures is bound to be the one that counts in domestic money markets and among foreign analysts. It lies in perfectly with the £2 billion overrun in the projected public sector borrowing requirement acknowledged by the Chancellor in his autumn statement yesterday. This is bad news for interest rates and the gilt-edged market, although not unexpected for readers of *The Times*.

In recent months, interest rates both here and internationally have been walking a tightrope. This has not, however, been any genuine expression of stability; merely a balance between those who expect money costs to rise in line with the world industrial cycle and those who expect high real interest rates to drop in line with falling expectations of future inflation.

The Chancellor's statement yesterday stayed on the tightrope, with poor current performance contrasted with cheerful forecasts about future British inflation and growth, putting the Treasury, at the head of the optimists rather than, as more usual, in the middle of the forecasting pack.

The market's initial reaction was almost off-hand, with gilt phlegmatically easing no more than an eighth and the share index dropping a minimal one point.

This, however, seems unlikely to last. Considering that the authorities have long seen the present level of short-term interest rates as the best that can be expected, and gilt-edged prices are near their peak, everything in the Chancellor's statement points to rates at best staying where they are. They are surely unlikely to fall.

With building society interest rates already above market levels, the banks must be looking over their shoulders in that direction.

The real interest rate argument affects only the foreign view of our markets and, if the honourable order of gnomes pins any weight on Mr Lawson's optimism, it will take more notice of the consequences for sterling of a 3 per cent 1984 growth rate, than a 4.5 per cent inflation rate.

Closing ranks

The picture might be different if the building societies were queuing up to ease the burden of borrowers after the record £1 billion inflow in October (bolstered by a further £300m from wholesale markets) and the prospect of another bumper catch this month. But they are not. Even the Abbey National now seems less likely to break ranks next week.

Indeed, a new longer-term study by the societies will probably point to home ownership rising from about 60 per cent now to 76 per cent within a decade. The Chancellor's emphasis on council house sales can only confirm this leitmotif in their thinking and their predilection for seeking to mop up what they see as a generation-long excess demand for mortgages. Never mind if their good intentions, reinforced by tax relief, are simply swallowed up in land prices. The logic is clearly to ratchet retail interest rates up whenever there is any doubt in the matter.

Singer suitors start lining up



Stoddart: thinking big

European Frieder's announcement that Singer & Friedlander is for sale has opened the door for endless speculation about possible buyers. The present upheaval in financial markets and institutions are a breeding ground for speculation.

Electra Investment Trust has already come out into the open as a possible suitor for the merchant bank.

Mr Michael Stoddart, Electra's chief executive, says there have been talks but stresses: "It is a very long shot this indeed."

As investment trusts go, Electra is certainly one of the most innovative and sympathetic to corporate finance deals, but it would be a big step for an operation which specializes in managing investments to buy outright a merchant bank with a disclosed net worth of £37m and a price tag of perhaps £50m plus.

It would be rash to rule out any corporate combinations in today's open season but Electra is not about to put in a firm bid tomorrow.

Financial institutions, although not banks, appear to be showing most of the interest in Singer at this stage. Another possible candidate is Britannia Arrow, the financial and unit trust group.

It has made a play for Guinness Mahon, another merchant bank, in the past and would probably be acceptable to the Bank of England.

These are early days, however. Singer's main activities comprise commercial banking - the bulk of profits - corporate finance for the medium-sized corporate customer and a small fund management operation aimed at rich individuals. There will doubtless be many names yet to pop out of the potential bidders' hat.

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

The output of the British economy rose smartly by 0.9 per cent in the third quarter of this year to its highest level since the beginning of 1980, up 1.8 per cent from a year earlier.

This comes after two quarters of unchanged output which had led to fears that economic recovery would fizzle out. But, as the Chancellor confirmed yesterday, the latest figures suggest that the economy is still on an upward course.

The output measure of gross domestic product is considered the most reliable guide to short-term movements in the economy. But it has risen more slowly than the income and spending measures which both point to rather faster growth.

Estimates for these are not yet available - but in the 12 months to the second quarter this year the output measure has risen only 1.6 per cent, the income measure by 2.7 per cent and the spending measure by 2.4 per cent.

This sharp rise in output took place despite a substantial slowdown in industry's stocks in

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

at constant factor cost
seasonally adjusted 1980 = 100

	Output data	average estimate
1979	103.3	102.7
1980	100.0	100.0
1981	97.9	98.4
1982	98.4	100.2
1982 Q1	98.6	99.6
Q2	99.1	99.7
Q3	99.8	100.2
Q4	99.8	101.0
1981 Q1	100.7	102.9
Q2	100.7	102.0
Q3	101.6	-

*preliminary estimate
Source: CSO

the third quarter, which dropped by £665m at 1980 prices after destocking of £90m in the first six months of this year.

Manufacturers' and wholesalers' stocks fell steeply while those of retailers increased.

The continuing consumer spending spree may have led to an involuntary reduction of stocks as industry scrambled to meet demand. But manufacturers also reduced their stocks

INVESTMENT AND STOCKS

seasonally adjusted at 1980 prices

	Total	Mfg (excluding leased assets)	Change in mfg stocks
1979	16834	8172	275
1980	15800	7275	-221
1981	14245	5472	-1,457
1982	14827	5472	-1,008
1982 Q1	1478	1583	-4
Q2	3708	1373	-342
Q3	3708	1350	-342
Q4	3774	1350	-342
1983 Q1	3689	1349	-23
Q2	3774	1329	-104
Q3	3810	1293	-288

*provisional
Source: Department of Trade and Industry

of basic materials and fuel, perhaps a more ominous sign for the future.

Manufacturers' stock-output ratio fell sharply from 101.9 in the second quarter to 99.3 in the third, reflecting both a rise in production and the drop in stocks, the lowest level since spring 1979, just before the downturn began.

This suggests that manufacturers' stocks are now at historically normal levels in

relation to output, with little further scope for reduction if production continues to rise. But having been badly hit in this recession, companies are now maintaining much tighter control of stocks and will be reluctant to build up stocks to any extent before being certain that the demand will materialize.

The Chancellor is relying on some stockbuilding to fuel continued recovery next year. He is also hoping for a significant increase in investment.

Official figures released yesterday show that capital spending rose by 1 per cent in the third quarter, bringing the increase in the latest six months over the previous six months to 1.5 per cent.

But investment by manufacturing industry (including leased assets) also rose, for the third consecutive quarter, by 2 per cent. Over the latest six months, however, capital spending by manufacturing remains 1.5 per cent lower than in the preceding six months, and more than a third below 1979 levels.

MPs want retaliation for US tax

By Michael Prest

MPs are preparing to table an Early Day motion next week calling on the Government to include retaliatory measures against unitary taxation in the next Finance Bill after a strong attack on unitary tax yesterday by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport.

Speaking in London to the Merchant Chamber of Commerce Mr Ridley described unitary taxation as a "retrograde step" which threatened to deter companies from investing in the UK.

He warned: "If this practice is not stopped, the already strong calls for retaliation will become deafening." Mr Ridley said that some American states had adopted rules which "drive a coach and horses through the unwritten fiscal convention accepted throughout the developed world."

Under the unitary taxation system, a government taxes a company within its jurisdiction on the percentage of worldwide turnover its operations represent. Companies pay local taxes on their locally earned profits.

British companies claim that unitary tax results in higher and unpredictable tax bills. The matter came to a head this year after the US Supreme Court upheld the right of states to levy unitary taxation.

West's in warning of bid

By Philip Robinson

West's Group International, the civil, structural and process engineers, yesterday urged its shareholders not to sell out to Espley-Tyas, the property group headed by Mr Ron Shuck, which bought 14.9 per cent of West's shares in a dawn raid on Tuesday.

In a letter to shareholders, Mr Ian Philipps, the chairman, says that it is unlikely that Espley-Tyas had bought such a large holding without having a bid in mind for the whole company.

Espley-Tyas spent about £1m buying 14 per cent of West's at 100p a share. It lifted the price to a record 108p for the year.

West's three main shareholders, Imperial Group's pension funds, M & G, the unit trust group, and Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, have retained their shares.

S G Warburg, West's merchant bank, said last night that a top-level meeting which they had offered, had been rejected by Mr Shuck.

Mr Shuck confirmed that on Wednesday Espley-Tyas sold the remainder of its shares in M J Gleeson. It had already sold 4.9 of a 7 per cent stake a week ago.

Gleeson figures, page 22

Kissin's son quits Guinness

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Mr Robert Kissin, son of Guinness Peat's founder Lord Kissin, resigned as director of the group yesterday. His resignation comes two days after he publicly aired differences with the Guinness Peat board over the takeover of an investment trust.

Although outnumbered by a majority of shareholders controlling 45.09 per cent, the Kissin family and others controlling 36.56 per cent voted against the acquisition of the Moorside Trust at an extraordinary meeting.

Mr Kissin said in a statement yesterday that he was so much at odds with the rest of the board, he had no option but to resign. He said he had lost faith in a board which recommended an acquisition costing approximately £1m in fees, bought assets worth £18m by issuing shares worth about £23m at today's Guinness Peat share price and diluted every single shareholder.

Mr Kissin also said the board had "rejected out of hand any contemplation of a rights issue to existing shareholders."

Guinness Peat responded yesterday by saying that the fees were just under £500,000 and a rights issue was never in question. The group's advisors, Morgan Grenfell, and stockbrokers Cazenove & Co and Rowe & Pitman has said it would be impossible, a spokesman said.

Guinness Peat also took issue with Mr Kissin's other arguments. The spokesman said it was not surprising he had resigned after the events at this week's extraordinary meeting.

Paint firm cuts 350 jobs

By Andrew Cornilios

The Donald Macpherson Group, which makes Cover Plus paint for F. W. Woolworth, is cutting its 2,300-strong British workforce by 350 as part of its programme to rationalize production. The principal sites affected are at Bury, Stockport and West Bromwich. The job losses take effect from the New Year.

The cuts result from reduction in demand for industrial surface coatings, coupled with substantial over capacity

in the British paint market. The group has lost 570 jobs in the past three years.

At the interim stage to May this year, Donald Macpherson managed pre-tax profits of £74,000 against £390,000 at the same stage last year. However the group's results were hit by destocking at Woolworth which cost £2m in sales.

The latest cuts were prompted by intense price competition in the paint industry

Dow rises in active trade

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Shares were firm on Wall Street yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up about 2 points and the transportation average by about a point.

Advances held a 3-to-2 lead over declines in active trading. American Telephone & Telegraph was up 1/4 to 63 3/4; General Motors up 1/4 to 76 1/4; Ford up 1/4 to 64 1/4; General Electric up 1/4 to 55 1/4; International Business Machines down 1/4 to 124; Monsanto up 1/2 to 109;

Markets unruffled

The autumn financial statement of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, had been largely discounted in the City before his speech and shares and Government stocks barely changed after.

At the last calculation before the Chancellor made his statement the 30-share index was unchanged at 722.8 points. After the speech it fell just a point.

Government stocks extended earlier falls of about 1/4 to the full point.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 721.8 down 1.0
FT 100 Index: 85.14 down 0.38
All Shares: 452.97 down 0.99
Bargains: 19,194
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.89 down 0.27
New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1251 down 0.32
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,416.95 down 13.86
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 882.69 up 17.71
Amsterdam: 148.5 down 0.5
Sydney: AO Index 710.1 down 0.8
Frankfurt: Commerbank Index 1021.9 up 5.1
Brussels: General Index 127.9
Paris: CAC Index 144.3 up 0.5
Zurich: SKA General 254.9 up 1.9

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4785 down 55pts
Index 83.9 down 0.1
DM 3.9850 up 0.0125
FF 12.1150 up 0.0365
Yen 349.25 up 0.25
Dollar Index 128.4 up 0.8
D 2.6985

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4780
Dollar DM 2.6985
INTERNATIONAL
SCU20.568839
SDRE0.708827

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$378.50 pm \$375.75
close \$374.50-\$375.25
(£253.25-£253.75)
New York (close): \$375.75
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$385-387.50 (£261-262)
Sovereigns (new):
\$57.50-\$58.50 (£59.25-£59.75)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

New index to start in January

The Stock Exchange Council confirmed yesterday that it is to run and publish its own equity index based on Britain's 100 largest companies.

The index will begin trial publication in January and in March the Council hopes for minute-by-minute updating.

The move was initially designed to meet the needs of the London International Financial Futures Exchange and the Stock Exchange's traded options market. But the FT 30 share index has long been considered unrepresentative of the market's price movements, so the new index could quickly replace it.

● Plessey yesterday reported a £7.3m increase in pretax profits for the second quarter of the year, producing a half year figure of £80.9m, in line with market expectations. The comparable half-year figure was £66.9m. Stromberg-Carlson, the American acquisition Plessey made last year, turned in a loss.

Investors' Notebook, page 20

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/2-9
3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/2-9 3/4
3 month DM 6 1/2-6 3/4
3 month Fr 1 3/4-1 1/2
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/4
Treasury long bond 10 1/4-10 1/2
ECOD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period October 5 to November 1, 1983 inclusive: 9.393 per cent.

Letter to Exchange stops Henara launch

By Jonathan Clare

A letter to the Stock Exchange from a former controlling shareholder in Dixor-Strand claiming that the constituents of Henara hair colouring powders could cause ear infections has stopped the public flotation of Henara, newly formed hair care company.

The flotation of Mr Sydney Lerner's privately owned Henna (Hair Health) was to have been unveiled yesterday. The deal would include an offer for the public quoted Dixor-Strand cosmetic company with the combined group to be called Henara - the name through which Henna Hair Health's products are sold in Boots, Superdrug and J Sainsbury.

Mr Lerner's bankers, Klein-

wort Benson, advised that the flotation be postponed for two weeks while tests are undertaken after Mr Martin Vincent wrote to the Stock Exchange about the constituents of the henna natural hair colouring powders.

Mr Vincent rescued Dixor-Strand in 1980 with Mr Lerner. But in April Mr Lerner bought out Mr Vincent's stake for £2m.

Yesterday Mr Lerner said the news about the allegations had come out of the blue late on Tuesday. "There is no way it can be true," he said, and quoted from a cosmetic directory which stated: "To all intents and purposes the danger from pure henna is non-existent."

Shareholders face \$152 billion dilemma

End of the line for AT&T

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The breakup of the world's largest corporation has now formally begun with the filing this week by American Telephone & Telegraph Co. of a 267-page document which is widely regarded as its epitaph. In the anxiously-awaited document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, AT&T described how it would accomplish the enormous job of divesting itself of the telephone operating companies which have been the core of its business for 100 years.

Although the actual divestiture does not happen until January 1, the SEC filing marked the beginning of the end of "Ma Bell," as AT&T is affectionately called by telephone users across America.

From the ashes of the \$152 billion (£10.3 billion) divestiture will rise a new, leaner AT&T in addition to seven new regional

companies which will provide telephone service to millions of customers.

The actual mechanics of this unprecedented undertaking, which is not dissimilar to the planned privatization of British Telecom, has sent shockwaves through financial markets and caused great confusion among AT&T's 3.2 million shareholders.

Trading in AT&T shares had been suspended to give analysts and investors time to sift through the information contained in the SEC filing which will form the basis for buy, sell and hold recommendations once trading in the new shares begins, possibly as early as Monday.

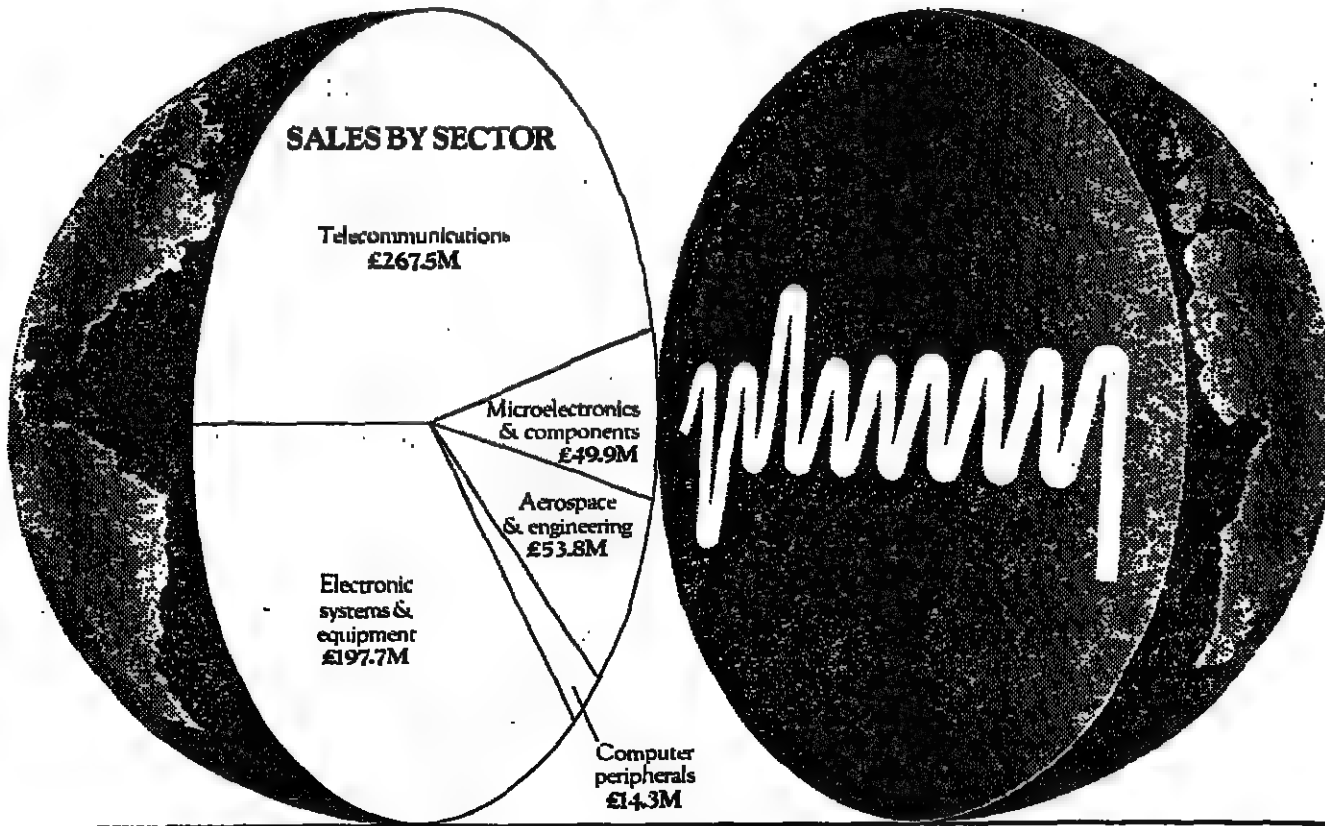
Then shareholders must begin to struggle with the decision of whether to do nothing and keep their shares in what will be a newly reconsti-

tuted AT & T or to sell the shares and tuck away the proceeds, which could be invested after the divestiture, in one or all of the new regional telephone companies.

Based on the information contained in the filing, it is now known that officials have projected a 1984 profit for the new AT & T of \$2.1 billion or \$2.02 a share. For the seven regional companies, the combined profit in 1984 is projected at \$6.59 billion equal to \$6.68 a share.

Dividends, which have been a primary consideration of AT & T's smaller shareholders, are expected to remain high, particularly in the first year. AT & T said it expected to pay out almost 60 per cent of its earnings in dividends next year but the ratio would fall thereafter to less than 50 per cent.

Outstanding performance. Worldwide.



1983-84 HALF-YEAR RESULTS

- Sales up 29%.
- Pre-tax profit up 21%.
- Earnings per share up 20%.
- Orders at record £1.4 billion.

An extract from The Plessey Company's unaudited consolidated results.

	26 weeks ended 30 September 1983 £m	26 weeks ended 1 October 1982 £m	52 weeks ended 1 April 1983 £m
Sales	583.2	451.5	1,074.8
Operating profit	66.0	53.4	119.0
Profit before taxation	80.9	66.9	146.4
Earnings per share	6.09p	5.07p	11.33p



PLESSEY

The Plessey Company plc,
Vicarage Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 4AQ.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Targets the US

sales in North America rose 8 per cent by volume helped by product launches and though the market has remained flat in Britain, the recent wave of adverse publicity for oral contraceptives may begin to move it higher.

The rubber gloves side of the group is still performing strongly, particularly in the home market where volume sales were up 12 per cent in the first half.

But while there is still some further benefit to come through from the rationalization of glove-making facilities between Britain and Malaysia and the integration of recently acquired photo-processing businesses with existing ones, it is clear that the main period of profits growth for LRC is over, in the medium term at least, is over.

The slow down will, to some extent, be reflected in the second half when, for seasonal reasons, the photo-processing businesses make no money. The full year tally as a consequence will probably be no higher than £15m against £22m in the year and profits growth the year after will be lower still, barring a big acquisition.

Kwik Save

Even if the economy should

sparkling than those of Sainsbury and Tesco.

Relative to the FT All-Share index, the sector fell from 23 to 190 last summer but, since climbed back to 225 - and it seems set to scale new heights.

The good news from the retailers is that although food price inflation is now running well below the increase in operating costs, margins have not come under the expected pressure. Increased productivity from existing staff and more efficient stock control have helped more than could have reasonably been hoped.

Kwik Save should be able to make £31.5m this year to put on a price/earning ratio of about 16 times compared with say, just over 17 for Tesco and about 25 for Sainsbury.

Sainsbury's performance was - and is likely to remain - stunningly good and it is this City's star buy in the food retailing sector. Tesco comes close second.

Both companies, and Tesco in particular, are long-term propositions. Tesco is likely to start to accelerate in two years as the current development programme ends.

Kwik Save is well liked not least on its relative cheapness for a go-ahead group.

The likely increase in the price of fresh foods over the

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

Local radio sends clear signals of high frequency revenues

Anyone taking a casual glance at the financial affairs of the independent local radio business could be forgiven for thinking that radio - unlike commercial television - was a licence to lose money. Six weeks ago, on the eve of the ILR system's 10th anniversary, the Leicester station, Centre Radio, closed - the first broadcasting company to crash since the early days of ITV in the mid-Fifties. Centre had lost £255,000 in 1981-82 and a similar loss was forecast for the year just ended.

About three weeks later, the Bristol station, Radio West, named after the station in the Shoestring TV series - announced staff cuts and an early close each week evening together with the appointment of a new chairman and a plan to raise about £350,000 in extra capital. The station's loss for 1982-83 is likely to be £320,000.

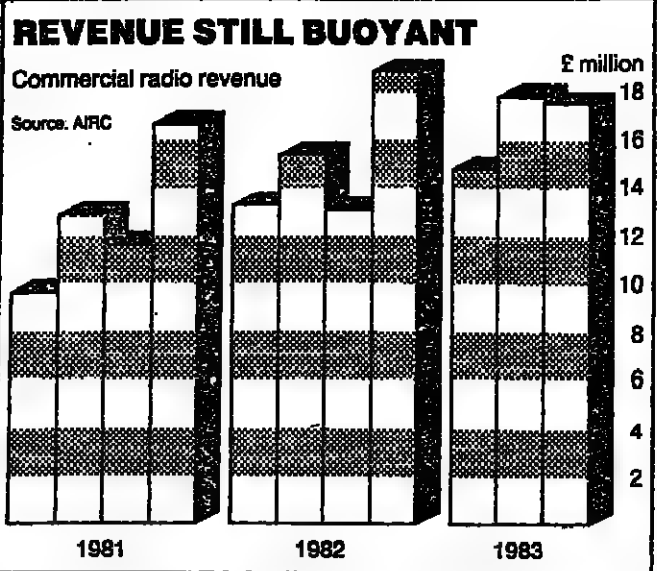
Similar problems at the Leeds station, Radio Aire (1981-82 loss - £158,000), would appear to provide fairly conclusive proof that radio is not a business in which a wise man would invest. If three cities the size of Leicester, Bristol and Leeds - regarded as the last three "plum" contracts to be awarded - cannot support a healthy radio station, which areas can?

Such a reaction from observers of the radio business is only natural and has done no good to those companies trying to raise capital for future stations. Yet all is not doom and gloom as advertising revenue figures and the profit record of some other stations will testify.

Last year, in 1982, radio's advertising revenue increased by 20 per cent, a rise greater than that of television, and though some of that was due to the launch of stations, the existing stations saw revenue rise significantly faster than inflation. In the first half of this year, revenue was up by 13 per cent and in the past four months, there has been an astonishing boom, with increases of 25 per cent and more.

Stations are now expected to take £71m revenue this year, compared with £61m last year and £51m the year before.

Some stations have done particularly well. Liverpool's Radio City, the only station to be quoted on the Unlisted



Securities Market, has a glittering record - it made £442,000 in 1981-2 - as does Manchester's Paccardilly Radio, Capital Radio, the London entertainment and general contractor which has just won a second term, regularly makes well over £1m a year, a performance which puts it in a league of its own.

But not only big city stations can turn in good profits. One of the radio industry's greatest successes in the last two years has been Essex Radio, which has made a profit of £112,000 in its first year (the figure would have been larger but the station spent £50,000 on buying shares

Liverpool's Radio City, quoted on the USM has a glittering record for profits

for its staff) and will report even better figures this year. Similarly, Radio 2CR in Bourne-mouth has made the best of a small (410,000 population) but very lucrative area, producing a profit last year of £12,000.

There was another hopeful sign for smaller operators last week when the Peterborough-based Hereward Radio was awarded the new franchise for nearby Northampton easing fears that a proliferation of new small stations could weaken

existing operators. Hereward, which makes a small profit, is the first to be awarded a second franchise.

Leicester is not typical and we have been at great pains to point out to people that it is a one-off, says Mr Terry Smith, managing director of Radio City and chairman of the Association of Independent Radio Contractors.

He said: "This is the only station to bite the dust in 10 years and when you think of the companies that have gone under in other industries in that period - the number of local newspapers, that have failed, for example - it puts things into perspective."

What the radio business is now learning is that it is the quality of management - and that includes the board as well as the senior executives - that makes the difference between success and failure for a radio station. The stations that have performed well, by and large, have had few top management changes, yet in the business as a whole no fewer than 16 managing directors have changed jobs in a year, which must put radio management a close second in the high-risk stakes behind football clubs.

Another lesson is that property deals can be of crucial importance to the financial stability of a station. Centre was dragged down by a huge burden of debt, a big factor in which was its expensive premises, and other stations have incurred

similar problems, so far without quite such consequences. Essex Radio, by contrast, bought a run-down building in Southend for £100,000 and did it up; the building is now worth almost ten times as much and the station earns £17,000 a year for renting out a part.

Ultimately, however, success depends not on keeping costs in check - though that is important - but in generating advertising revenue. Stations that have done particularly badly have not only had to bear high costs but have also tended to earn less revenue than they should in a market which is growing faster than inflation.

One reason for poor revenue performance can be low audiences - which is a factor both of programming and promotion - but an equally significant reason tends to be the skill of the salesman, particularly at a local level.

The increasing importance of local revenue was noted in the last annual report of the Independent Broadcasting

Hereward is the first small station to receive a second franchise

Authority which stated that in 1981/82 the ratio of local to national revenue was 49:51, compared with 41:59 in 1979/80. This is a considerable shift within a two-year period and though it can be accounted for partly by the smaller stations, which would normally tend to be more reliant on local advertisers, it is nevertheless a factor that no station can ignore.

The stations that have recorded the highest profit per head of population, Radio 2CR and Essex, have been particularly successful at generating local revenue.

The most recent boom, however, by most accounts, appears to have come largely from national advertisers, and it may well be that 1981-82 will turn out to have been something of a statistical quirk.

Kimberley-Clark, for example, which makes Kleenex tissues, recently tested radio in

Scotland and saw sales increase by 14 per cent, compared with 5 per cent in the rest of Britain, where television was used. It is now planning to use radio nationally next year instead of television, if a further test is successful.

"Many advertisers are discovering that their annual budget can buy them only six weeks' advertising on television these days," says Mr Mike Vanderkar, managing director of one of the two national radio sales companies, Broadcast Marketing Services. "Companies such as Procter & Gamble, Heinz, TDK and Volvo are taking radio very seriously indeed because they can see that it works."

The national sales companies, which sell to national advertisers on behalf of regional groups of stations, are now receiving back-up from the stations' own Radio Marketing Bureau, set up to generate new business. Radio still takes only 2.2 per cent of total advertising revenue though, as Mr Vanderkar points out, as long as the total advertising market is expanding it will be very hard for radio to increase that share: it can still do well financially on that 2 to 3 per cent share.

Mr Smith would like to see the budget of the Radio Marketing Bureau increased from its present £200,000 but is having trouble persuading his fellow managing directors to invest the extra sums. However, on two other financial issues there is total agreement.

In addition to paying about £5m primary rental to the IBA, and both a secondary rental and a Government levy on profits (together totalling about £1.5m last year), the radio stations have to pay more than £7m a year in copyright fees to Photographic Performance Limited (PPL) for their use of recorded music.

After a legal battle lasting several years, the AIRC is taking the issue to the High Court and asking that the payments should be reduced, on the grounds that the way they were calculated is wrong in law.

At the same time the companies are hoping that, with the IBA, they will soon be in talks with the Treasury, aimed at raising the threshold at which the Government levy is imposed on radio station profits.

MJ Gleeson set to sustain 42% rise

By Andrew Cornelius

M J Gleeson Group, the civil engineering and property group, is negotiating two multi-million pound deals in Oman and Thailand in an attempt to sustain its remarkable increase in profits for the year ending June 30. The group's pretax profits rose by 42 per cent to £3.1m during the year after a £1.3m bonus from interest payments on the group's £9m bank deposits.

Group turnover rose from £55m to £73m during the year and the board recommended payment of an increased final dividend of 3.2p per share compared with 2.7p last year. Much of the increased turnover is as a result of a £35m dam construction contract in Nigeria, although the profits from this will not accrue until 1984 and 1985.

The crucial Nigerian contract will be completed in October next year. Stage payments have been made according to the original agreement and Gleeson is adamant that any possible problems are guaranteed by ECOCOR cover.

Gleeson will also expand its £9.5m UK commercial property portfolio and its £65m civil engineering orderbook.

Its deal in Oman will involve establishing a management company to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the new five-year plan. Another construction deal is being negotiated with the Thai government.

Gleeson was also relieved to hear that Mr Ronald Shack's Espley-Tyus property group, had sold 4.9 per cent of its 7.3 per cent stake in Gleeson.

Elliott 'on target for return to profits'

By Philip Robinson

B. Elliott, one of Britain's largest machine-tool makers, is on target to return to profits next year. But Mr Mark Russell, the chairman, said yesterday that the return to profitability was taking longer than first thought.

He was reporting the half-year results to the end of September which showed pretax losses of £1.94m against £2.5m for the same time a year earlier. Turnover dropped from £41.5m to £34.3m. This year the group is paying a nominal dividend of 0.1p a share, required to be paid in any calendar month to maintain its status.

Mr Russell said: "The action being taken to return the group to profitability is taking longer to be effective than the company would wish."

He added: "We are on course to return to profits next year but I can't now say when. We have been hit by destocking and I think that might bottom out next spring."

The group has now got its tool merchandising side into profit, although the "control" button is small.

Orders for capital goods have been picking up. However these are coming from America rather than Britain.

In the stock market, Elliott shares, which have traded between 22p and 45p this year, eased 2p to 37p.

On sales up from £138.4m to £149.1m, pretax rose from £2m to £3.4m in the six months to the end of September.

The company said it will have a period of sustained growth. The redeployment of assets will continue and further reductions in group borrowings remain a prime objective.

Retaining in the US provides the group's greatest source of profit. Trading profits in the US, where the group owns the

Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £3.4m (loss £2.5m)
Turnover £149.1m (£138.4m)
Net interest dividend 0.1p (nil)
Share price 37p down 2p

On sales up from £138.4m to £149.1m, pretax rose from £2m to £3.4m in the six months to the end of September.

The company said it will have a period of sustained growth. The redeployment of assets will continue and further reductions in group borrowings remain a prime objective.

Retaining in the US provides the group's greatest source of profit. Trading profits in the US, where the group owns the

LCP half-year figures up 70% in expansion drive

By Jeremy Warner

A sharp reduction in bank borrowing costs has helped LCP Holdings, the Birmingham-based retailing, property and vehicle distribution combine, achieve a 70 per cent increase in half-year profits.

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LCP Holdings
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £3.4m (£2m)
Turnover £149.1m (£138.4m)
Net interest dividend 0.1p (nil)
Share price 37p down 2p

On sales up from £138.4m to £149.1m, pretax rose from £2m to £3.4m in the six months to the end of September.

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Philips Electronic names chief

Philips Electronic and Associated Industries: Mr Anton Poot will become chairman and managing director on January 1. He succeeds Mr J van der Meer who is retiring.

The Co-operative Bank: Mr Christopher Ruck has become deputy chief general manager.

British Gas: Mr John Dilks has been made chief financial accountant.

Shipbuilders and Shipbuilders Independent Association: Mr W. J. Baxter, shipbuilder manager, Harland and Wolff, has been elected president of the association for the coming year. Mr Norman Acaster, managing director, Cochrane Shipbuilders, becomes vice-president.

director of P&O Bulk Shipping, responsible for gas trades.

Export Group for the Construction Industry: Mr T. I. Candlish, a managing director of George Wimpey, has become chairman.

Wm. Teacher & Sons: Mr David Baywell becomes director of sales, Britain/Ireland.

Michael Cowman is appointed director of production at the blending and bottling plant at Craigpark, Glasgow, and Mr Huw Evans becomes director of marketing Britain/EEC.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Name	Current Price	Previous Price	% Change
1. American Mutual Fund	10.50	10.20	2.94
2. British American Fund	12.10	11.80	2.54
3. Canadian Fund	11.80	11.50	2.61
4. European Fund	13.20	12.90	2.33
5. Global Fund	14.50	14.20	2.11
6. Japanese Fund	15.80	15.50	1.94
7. Latin American Fund	16.20	15.90	1.89
8. Middle East Fund	17.50	17.20	1.74
9. Pacific Fund	18.80	18.50	1.62
10. Real Estate Fund	19.10	18.80	1.60
11. Technology Fund	20.40	20.10	1.49
12. US Bond Fund	21.70	21.40	1.38
13. World Fund	22.00	21.70	1.38
14. Asian Fund	23.30	23.00	1.30
15. European Growth Fund	24.60	24.30	1.23
16. Global Growth Fund	25.90	25.60	1.17
17. Japanese Growth Fund	27.20	26.90	1.11
18. Latin American Growth Fund	28.50	28.20	1.07
19. Middle East Growth Fund	29.80	29.50	1.02
20. Pacific Growth Fund	31.10	30.80	0.97
21. Real Estate Growth Fund	32.40	32.10	0.93
22. Technology Growth Fund	33.70	33.40	0.89
23. US Bond Growth Fund	35.00	34.70	0.86
24. World Growth Fund	36.30	36.00	0.83
25. Asian Growth Fund	37.60	37.30	0.78
26. European Growth Fund	38.90	38.60	0.75
27. Global Growth Fund	40.20	39.90	0.75
28. Japanese Growth Fund	41.50	41.20	0.73
29. Latin American Growth Fund	42.80	42.50	0.70
30. Middle East Growth Fund	44.10	43.80	0.68
31. Pacific Growth Fund	45.40	45.10	0.67
32. Real Estate Growth Fund	46.70	46.40	0.65
33. Technology Growth Fund	48.00	47.70	0.63
34. US Bond Growth Fund	49.30	49.00	0.61
35. World Growth Fund	50.60	50.30	0.59
36. Asian Growth Fund	51.90	51.60	0.58
37. European Growth Fund	53.20	52.90	0.57
38. Global Growth Fund	54.50	54.20	0.55
39. Japanese Growth Fund	55.80	55.50	0.54
40. Latin American Growth Fund	57.10	56.80	0.53
41. Middle East Growth Fund	58.40	58.10	0.52
42. Pacific Growth Fund	59.70	59.40	0.50
43. Real Estate Growth Fund	61.00	60.70	0.49
44. Technology Growth Fund	62.30	62.00	0.48
45. US Bond Growth Fund	63.60	63.30	0.47
46. World Growth Fund	64.90	64.60	0.46
47. Asian Growth Fund	66.20	65.90	0.45
48. European Growth Fund	67.50	67.20	0.45
49. Global Growth Fund	68.80	68.50	0.44
50. Japanese Growth Fund	70.10	69.80	0.43
51. Latin American Growth Fund	71.40	71.10	0.42
52. Middle East Growth Fund	72.70	72.40	0.41
53. Pacific Growth Fund	74.00	73.70	0.41
54. Real Estate Growth Fund	75.30	75.00	0.40
55. Technology Growth Fund	76.60	76.30	0.39
56. US Bond Growth Fund	77.90	77.60	0.39
57. World Growth Fund	79.20	78.90	0.38
58. Asian Growth Fund	80.50	80.20	0.37
59. European Growth Fund	81.80	81.50	0.37
60. Global Growth Fund	83.10	82.80	0.36
61. Japanese Growth Fund	84.40	84.10	0.35
62. Latin American Growth Fund	85.70	85.40	0.34
63. Middle East Growth Fund	87.00	86.70	0.34
64. Pacific Growth Fund	88.30	88.00	0.33
65. Real Estate Growth Fund	89.60	89.30	0.33
66. Technology Growth Fund	90.90	90.60	0.33
67. US Bond Growth Fund	92.20	91.90	0.32
68. World Growth Fund	93.50	93.20	0.32
69. Asian Growth Fund	94.80	94.50	0.32
70. European Growth Fund	96.10	95.80	0.31
71. Global Growth Fund	97.40	97.10	0.31
72. Japanese Growth Fund	98.70	98.40	0.30
73. Latin American Growth Fund	100.00	99.70	0.30
74. Middle East Growth Fund	101.30	101.00	0.30
75. Pacific Growth Fund	102.60	102.30	0.29
76. Real Estate Growth Fund	103.90	103.60	0.29
77. Technology Growth Fund	105.20	104.90	0.28
78. US Bond Growth Fund	106.50	106.20	0.28
79. World Growth Fund	107.80	107.50	0.28
80. Asian Growth Fund	109.10	108.80	0.27
81. European Growth Fund	110.40	110.10	0.27
82. Global Growth Fund	111.70	111.40	0.27
83. Japanese Growth Fund	113.00	112.70	0.26
84. Latin American Growth Fund	114.30	114.00	0.26
85. Middle East Growth Fund	115.60	115.30	0.26
86. Pacific Growth Fund	116.90	116.60	0.25
87. Real Estate Growth Fund	118.20	117.90	0.25
88. Technology Growth Fund	119.50	119.20	0.25
89. US Bond Growth Fund	120.80	120.50	0.24
90. World Growth Fund	122.10	121.80	0.24
91. Asian Growth Fund	123.40	123.10	0.24
92. European Growth Fund	124.70	124.40	0.23
93. Global Growth Fund	126.00	125.70	0.23
94. Japanese Growth Fund	127.30	127.00	0.23
95. Latin American Growth Fund	128.60	128.30	0.22
96. Middle East Growth Fund	129.90	129.60	0.22
97. Pacific Growth Fund	131.20	130.90	0.22
98. Real Estate Growth Fund	132.50	132.20	0.22
99. Technology Growth Fund	133.80	133.50	0.21
100. US Bond Growth Fund	135.10	134.80	0.21

هكذا من الأصل

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

By David Miller

Hodde: making his mark at last

By Clive White

By John Hennessy

al set pattern Blues

U.S. in Barcelona. They lost 3-2 finally on a natural grass pitch, according to Featherstone, but not up to international standard. They also lost 4-2 to the Pakistani juniors.

USA (American scores first: v Spain, 0-1; v 3-5; Pakistan juniors, 2-4; v France, 1-3; v Belgium, 2-4.

RUGBY UNION: ALL BLACKS HAVE INJURY WORRIES. WALES HAVE SELECTION PROBLEMS

By Mitchell Platts

BMW

W SHIRLEY

1980 V 230A. Cashmere/Mocha, BSR, elec window
1982 V 230A. Beccal/Pacific, MSR Power Gy.
1980 W 728A. Cashmere/Mocha, MSR Pelase R/c
1980 W 728A. Seppinh/Pacific, MSR, Elec window
1982 W 230A. Henna/Androsite, 5 speed

BMW IN CROYDON To

Men with a mission, White (left) and Simpson (right) England's new forwards are in the mood to take on the All Blacks. (Photograph: Chris Cole)

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

are a holy break: Wheeler took a full part of England's training at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, yesterday afternoon with his left hand stopped up following a hand injury. During play, Hamilton Division game against the touring side last week.

England, who will have their final runoff this morning concentrated on the 100 per cent of the 100 per cent, such as lineouts and kick-offs, developing play from these positions and featuring much use of high kicks down the centre of the field and to the wings.

It will not have taken the All Blacks too long to work out that Cusworth and Dodge will be the important players for England's backs. Richard Woodward, England's coach, Nicky Lawton, England's

[illegible]

By Gerald Davies

Cunningham won Scotland's reserve hooker. Bob Cunningham, of Bath., will captain his B team against Ireland B, at Melrose on December 3. He takes over from Kennedy, of Watsonians, whose selection for the full international side was also criticised by the All Blacks made him ineligible.

TEAM: A Williams (Watsonian); P. Steven (Merchist); C Hastings (West of Scotland); J. MacLennan (Glasgow); G. Smith (Dumfries); R. Cunningham; D. Wylie (Shelburne); I. Hunter (Glasgow); J. Brown (Glasgow); F. Gordon (Glasgow); H. Campbell; J. Fraser (Greenock Scottish); A. Campbell (Fifehead); J. Morris (Sale); J. MacFarlane (Glasgow); J. MacFarlane; W. Murray (Glasgow). Replacements: A.

Cunningham wins B captaincy

● **PARIS (AFP)** — The lock, Jean-Charles Orso, from Nice, has pulled out of the French team to meet Australia in the second international here tomorrow, because his left eye is swollen. Lorieux, of Grenoble, takes his place. Herrero, also of Nice, has had to withdraw as spare hooker, because of a pulled leg muscle. Rizon, from Montferand, will fill the gap on the replacements' bench.

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Pride of place this week is earned by the all-conquering Sedburgh's visit to Durham, also one of the talented sides in the north. Durham were unbeaten at home but lost a close match (6-13) which was Sedburgh's defining against the exciting Durham backs, proved crucial.

It was 9-3 at half-time. Durham scored first through a penalty by Roseberry, but a dropped goal by Carling and his conversion of a try by Payne, put Sedburgh ahead.

In the second half Durham ran everything, yet forked over to the Sedburgh back, Roseberry, a penalty for the losers and Carling ran from deep to put Krishnan in for a magnificent try. Durham have lost to Apleforth, Snerborne and Barmston, but they are still a mighty well have lost less to Kings

Time for Prean to stop

growing up

By a Special Correspondent

The draw for the big invitation event at Wembley, which opens this year by Charles Preen's return to the English Church, keeps apart, until the semi-finals at least, two of the most interesting players in England—the tennis hitman No. 1, and Desmond Douglas, the 28-year-old six-times national champion. It is probably Preen's belief that he has beaten Douglas in his last three matches, and his defeat—loss of form, and more recently, a series of arguments have brought about a mini crisis in his career. Even so, it seems to him that he has beaten Douglas in all three; and for him, such a re-fit this week, and six inches of growth this year, requiring bending for a backhand loop, or five feet in shooting up, it would be much better if he could somehow prune his growth.

He has suffered five defeats out of six at the European League, four of them to players he has beaten before. But he has been experimenting, playing without his customary "rubbers" (the different rubber on each side) and today he will try different colours on each side of a miniature tennis ball. He has become an early national regulation as from the start of next year. On current form Douglas, the winner of the second round and German grand prize, should provide the computer ranking last week surprised confirmed Preen's top spot.

Apart from his last defeat, the Table Tennis Association is over his non-selection for the Scandinavian Open, and Preen to play in the English Junior Open rather than in Scandinavia. The Preens, father and son, are refusing outside money for their own second round, and Preen, no doubt, will follow in the saga.

Preen's cause was later helped by the withdrawal of the world number one player, Park Lee Hae of South Korea from his section.

Mozzwellie, if tonight he does not get a world number one at Wembley, nobody should blame him.

Draw: Group C—D Douglas, A Graham (Sweden), B—Preen, D—Preen, V. Clarkson (Sweden).

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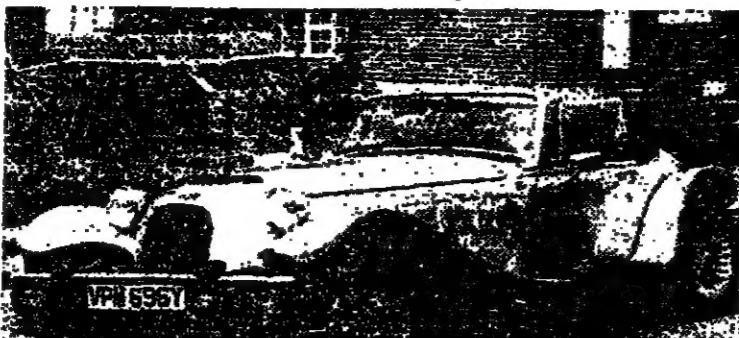
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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Panther Kallista roars up the sales chart



The Panther 2.8 Kallista: hugely successful and heading for the US

One of the best looking replica sports cars around today is the Panther Kallista, a cross between a Morgan and an SS Jaguar. But it is not simply looks that make the Kallista such a remarkable success story. It is so well-built and such a pleasure to drive that delighted owners never miss an opportunity to spread the gospel.

Since its launch, just over a year ago, more than 600 have been sold. At starting prices of less than £7,000 it is probably the cheapest fully-type-approved sports car on the UK market today.

It is also exported to France and Singapore and has just been launched in Germany and Holland. Germany is seen as a key market with sales next year projected to reach two hundred.

That would be enough for most replicas firms to cope with. But not Panther. In two years time it plans to invade the North American market. The present premises in Canada Road, Blythe, Surrey are hopelessly inadequate for such a grandiose plan so in a fortnight's time production starts in a new factory half a mile away.

With a touch of nostalgia that will not go amiss on the firm's letter heading, it is situated inside the old Brooklands race track. The target is around eight hundred cars next year.

Yet less than three years ago, Panther was in the hands of the Official Receiver and seemed destined to follow other specialist car makers who got carried away by volume and ran out of cash. That was when South Korean businessman Mr Young Chul Kim appeared on the scene.

He was in London adding another vintage car to his already large stable when he was attracted by a Panther Lima, the Kallista's predecessor, parked outside his hotel. He was surprised to learn that the maker of such an outstanding sports car were on the market so he bought it.

One of the Korean-based companies owned by his Jindo group makes aluminium transporter containers. That involves the use of large sheet metal presses. With little modification, they were put to work producing aluminium bodies to replace the former GRP "plastic" shells.

Today the aluminium body is shipped to Blythe complete with its box section steel chassis. It gives Panther every specialist car firm's dream, its most costly operation carried on the back of another company's overheads and in a country with a vast pool of cheap labour.

On the road, the Kallista displays all the shortcomings in comfort, ride and space that must be accepted by anyone contemplating

buying a replica sports car. It is noisy, bumpy and a tight fit for two average-sized people. Climbing in with the hood up is hazardous because the level which actuates the seat folding mechanism is ideally seated to give a nasty prod. I am assured this hazard will be a short-lived however when a new seat is introduced within a matter of weeks.

But it is great fun to drive with leech-like, road-holding. Climbing in with the hood up is hazardous because the level which actuates the seat folding mechanism is ideally seated to give a nasty prod. I am assured this hazard will be a short-lived however when a new seat is introduced within a matter of weeks.

Now two of the most respected names in the motoring business, Mercedes-Benz and AL-KO, have come up with a stabilizing device which is attracting a lot of interest at the Caravan Camping and Holiday Show at Earls Court, London.

Vital statistics

Model: Kallista 2.8 litre
Engine: Ford 2792 cc V6
Price: from £7,485 to £8,500 depending on specification
Performance: Maximum speed 114 mph, 0-60 mph 7.8 seconds
Official consumption: Not available, but average 25 mpg
Length: 12.8 feet
Insurance: Group 7

The Kallista is available with three Ford engine options - a 1.6, 2.8 carburettor and 2.8 fuel injection - all combined with Ford's five-speed gearbox. The 1.6 will top 105 mph and reach 60 mph from a standing start in 8.9 seconds. The 2.8 carburettor model which I tried has a maximum speed of 114 mph and a 0-60 mph time of 7.8 seconds. With fuel injection it exceeds 120 mph and takes only 7 seconds to reach 60 mph.

At the recent Earls Court Motorfair, orders were placed for 114 Kallistas worth £1m. Unfortunately that extends the already long delivery time to one year. In the meantime Panther is developing a modern, mid-engined 2+2 sports car which it confidently expects to launch at next year's Birmingham International Motor Show.

affected surfaces. According to AL-KO the Geomatic is immune to even these because the caravan follows exactly the same track as the towing vehicle.

There is already talk that such an increase in towing safety could lead to towing speed limits being raised. I would caution against excess enthusiasm, however, until we have a great deal more practical experience of the system. Although it was shown at Earls Court, it is still not in production and is unlikely to be before 1985.

Weary traveller

Driving back from Germany recently I found myself looking for overnight accommodation within easy reach of Calais and an early crossing next morning. It was a filthy evening, at the end of an equally awful journey in rain driven by gale force winds. My only thoughts were of a warm bath, a good meal and bed.

But it seemed that most of the motorists on the road that evening had the same thought. One hotel after another on the busy N43 declared itself full. I did manage to get in finally but it cost the earth and how I wished for more information about the Auberges and Relais in the villages adjoining the main road.

I have just acquired the answer in the shape of *French Enroute*, the Townsend Thoresen guide to the French Channel ports and their environs. I knew as soon as I began to read the down-to-earth comments of its author Patricia Fenn that this handy little book would join my dog-eared pack of Michelin Maps as a must for all future cross-Channel trips.

Her comments on Hotels I have stayed in were in line with my own experience. At £3.75 it is good value. I have already ear-marked a number of interesting looking cheap hotels and restaurants for my next trip.

It Townsend Thoresen would extend their cheap Motorover day trips to cover an overnight stay I might be persuaded to take my wife and two friends on a Christmas shopping expedition. At £38 return for a car of any length with four passengers and with stirring riding high at 12 francs to the pound it is very tempting.

Correspondence

I would remind readers again that correspondents on motoring matters should be sent direct to me at the Time Midland Office, Albany House, Hurst Street, Birmingham B5 4BD, and not to *The Times*, London.

Rolls-Royce and Bentley Authorised Dealers

JACK BARCLAY LIMITED

- 1981 (Oct) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SPIRIT. Catalina Deign with Dark Brown leather upholstery, 20,000 miles. £37,000
- 1981 (Jan) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SPIRIT. Lugal with Dark Brown leather upholstery, 18,000 miles. £37,000
- 1981 (Feb) BENTLEY T2. Highland Green with a Tan Everi lux roof and Tan leather upholstery, 15,000 miles. £29,500
- 1980 (Sept) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER WRAITH II WITHOUT DIVISION. Shell Grey with Dark Blue Everflex roof and Dark Blue leather upholstery, 13,000 miles. £32,500
- 1980 (Jan) BENTLEY T2. Shell Grey with Dark Blue Parkette upholstery, 10,000 miles. £30,500
- 1980 (Apr) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II. Moorland with Dark Brown leather upholstery, 11,000 miles. £22,500
- 1978 (Sept) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II. Scots Pine with Green Parkette upholstery, 19,000 miles. £22,500
- 1977 (Jan) ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM II LINCOLN. Coffee Brown with Tan leather upholstery to the front and rear. Cocktail cabinet and forward facing occasional seats. 40,000 miles. £58,500
- 1976 (Apr) ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SHADOW. Moorland with Beige leather upholstery, 40,000 miles. £17,500

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Mercedes

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V reg. Electric sunroof, radio/cassette, headlamp wash/wipe, window glass, Mercedes-Benz interior, 28,000 miles, 1 owner, excellent.
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Phone 0476 570697

Mercedes

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1980 Auto
Metallic Brown, velour seats, alloy wheels, electric sunroof, cruise control, radio.
£10,500
Vauxhall 027 01 3008
Weekdays 0706 4198 Weekdays

Mercedes

350 SE APRIL 1980
38,000 miles, air conditioning, electric roof/windows, cruise control, headlamp wash/wipe, Mercedes-Benz interior, 28,000 miles, 1 owner, excellent.
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Tel: 0446 285

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NORTH OF THAMES

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empower a committee of the Council to enter premises under the authority of section 12 to seize and remove any material offered under (a) above.

(2) It shall be a defence for a person to prove that where an offence committed by a person in connection with the carrying on of a business of a company or to be attributable to the negligence of, that officer shall be guilty of the offence only if he can prove that he acted in good faith to confer, and apply the power and the provisions of the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1971.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Council or a London borough council to ensure that the Council or a London borough council (other than common) conditions and the provisions of the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1971, for the purpose of the carrying on of education, the conservation of the environment.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

down of passengers may take place, after the 2nd day of December 1983 and thereafter. These tickets may be obtained at the offices of the undersigned Solicitors Agents.

The Bill may be made by deposit or both Houses of Parliament. The laying in the First House will be 6 February of 1984 or 30 January if it originates in the House of Lords, or 30 January if it originates in the House of Commons. Further information may be obtained from the undersigned Solicitors Agents.

at 18th day of November 1983

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Under Council
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Theatre 01-836 6995.
Time 01-836 2220.
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SPECIAL OCCASIONS.
Admits by Bernard Stede.

[illegible]

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

6.00 **Cee-fax AM:** News and information service, available on sets, whether with teletext or not.

6.30 **Breakfast Time:** With Frank Bough and Fern Britton. Today's "specials" include pop news (between 7.45 and 8.00). Regular items include news at 6.30 and then half-hourly until 8.30, sport at 6.45, 7.15 and 8.15, morning papers (7.15 and 8.15) and tonight's TV (between 6.45 and 7.00).

8.00 **My Music:** Steve Race tests the musical knowledge of Frank Mull, John Arne, Denis Norden and Ian Wallace (V). Closes down at 8.25.

10.30 **Play School:** Ann McGovern's story 'Too Much Noise!': 10.55 Playhouse; Closes down at 11.05.

12.30 **News After Noon:** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Goodall; 12.57 'Financial Report' and subtitled news headlines.

1.00 **Pebble Mill at One:** Among today's guests is the American singer and actress Rosemary Clooney whose golden years of fame were the 1950s and 1960s. Songs from Brook Benton, and gardening tips from Peter Dinklage; 1.45 Little Misses and the Mister Men (V).

2.00 **Racing from Ascot:** We see the 2.10, the 2.40, the 3.10 and the 3.40.

3.55 **Play School:** It's Friday; 4.20 Laurel and Hardy: also only in a cartoon; 4.25 Jackanory: Bill Oddie reads more chapters from Roald Dahl's 'The BFG'; 4.40 Take Hart with under-valued Tony Hart and Morph; 5.00 Crackajacks; with Basil Brush, Blue Zoo and Andy Mann.

5.40 **Sty Minutes:** Includes news at 5.40, regional magazines (5.55), weather (6.15) and closing headlines (6.30). Timings are approximate.

6.40 **Friday Sportsman:** Desmond Lynam presents the weekend round-up.

6.55 **Show Business:** entertainment magazine. Includes items on the opening of London's new £3 million nightspot at the Hippodrome. Les Dawson demonstrates the art of playing the piano very badly, and there are interviews with Robert Redford and Ringo Starr.

7.20 **Film:** Carry on Cleo (1965) Jeppia, Mark Aronson, Cesar, and Co. in incidents the history books omitted to mention. With Kenneth Williams, Sidney James and (as the saucer-eyed Queen of the Nile) Amanda Barnes.

8.50 **Points of View:** More quotes from Barry Toole's postbag.

9.00 **News:** with Sue Lawley. And weather for the weekend.

9.25 **Knock Landing:** Val volunteers Gary's services to Abby for Father's Day at school; and Lillie's friendship with Jackson Mobley leads to disappointment.

10.15 **My Kind of Music:** The choice is Barbara Dickinson's. She appears with her band and with her guest Colin Blunstone.

10.45 **News Headlines:** And weather.

10.50 **Film:** This Sporting Life (1963) Musical-melodrama about a ruthless rugby player, it put Richard Harris on the map in a performance he has never equalled. And many think it is still director Anderson's most accomplished film. With Rachel Roberts, William Hartnell, Colin Blakely and Alan Badel. Ends at 1.05am.



Wilbur Wright: The Spirit of Kitty Hawk (Radio 4, 4.10pm)

Two things need to be said right away about the **SPIRIT OF KITTY HAWK** (Radio 4, 4.10pm). The first of the life is inspirational and not supernatural: Kitty Hawk is not a person but a coastal town on the coast of North Carolina where the Wright Brothers, Wilbur and Orville, flying their rickety aircraft for less than a minute back in 1903, bumped into the first steps in the history of powered flight. And the second thing that must be said about the first steps in the history of powered flight, and the fact that although it is very much about flying machines, it is much more about the men who flew them. There is, for example, not a single structural statistic (i.e. length, weight, or wing span) in the whole of today's inaugural episode and, except for the odd reference

to the use of wood and fabric and to Blériot's plane looking like a flying bicycle, there is a total absence of technical pictures of the aircraft, and sometimes, and sometimes, the current history of Radio Times has, though the publication's portraits of the flyers themselves — like Wilbur Wright on the left — are largely redundant, thanks to the clearly-defined word portraits in Mr. Wright's gallery of men with wings.

The one-episode argument put forward with such force and a great many grim statistics in **PICTURE OF HEALTH** (Channel 4, 10.30pm) in that social inequality is

bad for your health. The death rate in Tower Hamlets, an unlikely empire of high-rise flats in London's East End, is one of the highest in the country. In the world of Social Class 5, worms and unthinkingly filthy water creep up into the bath; the girls give down sewer outlets; an asbestos victim spits into the gutter; a man recovering from an operation has to drag himself up 38 flights of steps. The line of social climbers who state the case for an urgent and drastic environmental re-think in Carol Pick's provocative film — the first of eight which make a firm connection between health and politics — is well endowed with powerful image makers, like the man who recalls that the statue of Queen Victoria in the East End was back to the East End and its arms open to the West End.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather, 7.00 News, 7.05 Morning Concert, Part one. Strauss (Introduction), Capriccio, Cruller (Sinfonia concertante for clarinet, bassoon, horn and orchestra). Mozart (Eine kleine Missa, K. 574) Dag Wiran (Serenade for String).

8.00 News, 8.05 Spelhus (Rakastava), Albeniz (Sinfonia), Strauss (Sinfonia in A).

9.05 News, 9.10 The Week's Composer: Borodin, Constantin Cherkasski, baritone, in excerpts from Prince Igor. With Boris Christoff.

10.00 Bohemian Contemporaries: Richard Strauss (The Last Four Moments of a Hero), Claude Debussy (L'après-midi d'un faune), Maurice Ravel (Bolero), Erik Satie (Gymnopédie No. 1), Claude Debussy (Nocturne), Maurice Ravel (Bolero), Erik Satie (Gymnopédie No. 1), Claude Debussy (Nocturne), Maurice Ravel (Bolero), Erik Satie (Gymnopédie No. 1).

10.55 Northern Sinfonia with Stephen Varcoe (bassoon), Mozart's Symphony No. 24, First's Songs from Love's Labour's Lost, David Ellis's Diversions for chamber orchestra, Sinfonia, Peleas et Melisande.

11.55 Garland for Walter de la Mare: Mark Rowlands (baritone) and Paul Hamburger (piano) work. 12.00 Midday From: Part one. Beethoven (Overture, Coriolan) and Hindemith's Symphony: Maudsley Hall.

1.00 News, 1.05 St. Constantine: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.

1.20 Midday From: part two. Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 1 (with John Higgins, soloist). Brahms's Variations on St. Anthony's Chorale.

2.05 Violin and piano: recital by Takashi Shiraishi and Gordon Back. Schumann's Sonata No. 1 in A minor, Saint-Saëns's Sonatine, soloist, and the introduction and Variations.

3.00 Haydn and Field: New Irish Chamber Orchestra, with John O'Connor (piano), Haydn's Symphony No. 73, and Field's Piano Concerto No. 3.

4.00 Choral Excerpts from the Christus, a Choral, Cambridge, A. 18 transcriptions.

4.55 News, 5.00 The World Tonight: News, 5.05 The World Tonight: News, 5.10 The World Tonight: News, 5.15 The World Tonight: News, 5.20 The World Tonight: News, 5.25 The World Tonight: News, 5.30 The World Tonight: News, 5.35 The World Tonight: News, 5.40 The World Tonight: News, 5.45 The World Tonight: News, 5.50 The World Tonight: News, 5.55 The World Tonight: News, 6.00 The World Tonight: News, 6.05 The World Tonight: News, 6.10 The World Tonight: News, 6.15 The World Tonight: News, 6.20 The World Tonight: News, 6.25 The World Tonight: News, 6.30 The World Tonight: News, 6.35 The World Tonight: News, 6.40 The World Tonight: News, 6.45 The World Tonight: News, 6.50 The World Tonight: News, 6.55 The World Tonight: News, 7.00 The World Tonight: News, 7.05 The World Tonight: News, 7.10 The World Tonight: News, 7.15 The World Tonight: News, 7.20 The World Tonight: News, 7.25 The World Tonight: News, 7.30 The World Tonight: News, 7.35 The World Tonight: News, 7.40 The World Tonight: News, 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